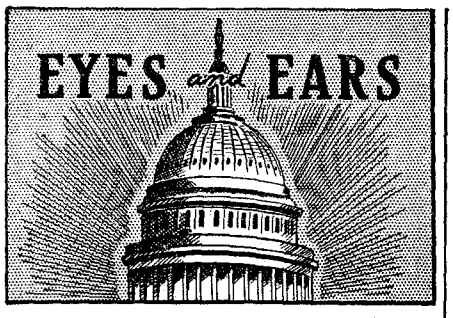
NO RECOVERY WITHOUT MONETARY REFORM

Social Justice

PRODUCE FOR USE AT A FAIR PROFIT

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATIONAL UNION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

VOL. I • NUMBER 6 ROYAL OAK • MICHIGAN • APRIL 17, 1936 5 CENTS PER COPY



By Mark Meechan

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Supreme Court has once again passed an unfriendly eye over a piece of New Deal legislation. The SEC (Securities Exchange Commission) was not declared unconstitutional, but was told that its use of arbitrary power in the Jones case constituted an infringement of the constitutional rights of Mr. Jones, a stock promoter.

The commission regrets the decision because it will make the task of "labeling fraudulent promoters as such" more difficult.

In effect, the Supreme Court ruled that, had the commission let the Jones application for the registration become effective, after the expiration of 20 days under the terms of the Securities Act, they would have had the alleged fraudulent promoter red-handed.

The inference to be taken from the decision is that the SEC was not following the rules laid down by Congress, but was acting in a high-handed, "arbitrary" manner—somewhat after the manner of dictators.

The age-old curse of bureaucracy has been its tendency to become a law unto itself; the very nature of its development makes inroads upon the rights and liberties of citizens; its ultimate goal is inevitably some type of tyranny.

This Jones case is an example of the trend of bureaucracy. It is particularly arresting because the arbitrary action of the commission was seemingly so needless to further the purposes of the act. To those of us who are on the outside, it also seems like a clumsy way of warning a culprit about to commit a crime that he is being watched. In over-reaching its authority, the SEC evidently defeated the purpose of the Securities Act.

No one who believes in American traditions of justice and democracy will take exception to the following statement of the Supreme Court:

> "Arbitrary power and the rule of the Constitution cannot both exist. They are antagonistic and incompatible forces; and one or the other must of necessity perish whenever they are brought into conflict."

◆ ◆ ◆

Another paragraph from the Supreme Court's decision in the Jones case is attracting excited attention in Washington. It is this:

> "The philosophy that constitutional limitations and legal restraints upon official action may be brushed aside upon the plea that good, perchance, may follow, finds no countenance in the American system of government. An investigation not based upon specified grounds is quite as objectionable as a search warrant not based upon specific statements of fact."

While it had to do with the SEC's subpœna requiring Jones to bring in his books

(Continued on page 3)

Borah Declares for Coinage of U. S. Money by Congress

EDITORIAL

An Open Letter to Sen. William E. Borah

DEAR Senator Borah:

Your stand on the World Court issue is well-known. Your record is clear insofar as you are opposed to the internationalists.

Your stand on the question of Communism in Mexico is clear also. You have protested against the persecution of religionists in Mexico.

On many other vital questions of our day your record is complete. It has been reported recently that in a speech at Carbondale you made the statement that Congress and Congress alone should coin all the money issued in the United States.

SOCIAL JUSTICE respectfully asks you either to confirm or deny this statement attributed to you. In other words, are you, Senator Borah, in favor of withdrawing from the Federal Reserve Banks their questionable privilege of issuing money and do you favor and promise to campaign in season and out of season for restoring to Congress the exercise of its sovereign right of coining and issuing and regulating the value of all the money used in the United States of America?

This question is proposed to you, Sen. Borah, not with the idea of embarrassing you, but only with the idea of placing you on record before the millions of American voters who are identified with the National Union for Social Justice.

A copy of this newspaper will be sent to you by registered mail, return receipt requested. Your answer will be printed within the next month in this same column.

If you prefer not to answer, SOCIAL JUSTICE will be satisfied to record that fact.

Many Amendments Making Mess of Chain Store Bill

Washington, D. C.—Second only to the common impulse to dip into the pork barrel, is the tendency for working congressmen to take a hand in pending legislation, to write in their own pet versions of improvement—if, indeed, they do not serve more subtle interests—and the results of well-intentioned legislation is, more often than not, a mess.

At the instance of wholesale grocers, who sought to ban the unfair tactics of discounts on quantity purchases by the big grocery chains, Representative Wright Patman of Texas and Senate Leader Joe Robinson of Arkansas introduced the original chain-store bills in their respective chambers.

Bill Has Dilemma Horns

Friends of the administration advised that chain store legislation would draw votes from the appreciative small business man and the great army of the nation's middlemen, freed from the menace of the "chain gang." Older political counsel, however, whispered the suggestion that any curbing of the chains might look to the voters like higher retail prices. Inasmuch as there are many more consumer votes than business men's, the "other end of Pennsylvania ave-

(Continued on page 3)

Wins Poll Test in Wisconsin

Idaho Senator Given 21 of State's 24 G. O. P. Delegates

By the Political Editor

BITTERLY assailed a week ago, as the menace most to be feared by the Republican party gold money crowd, Senator William E. Borah of Idaho scored an overwhelming victory in his first middle western test at the polls.

In the primaries of progressive Wisconsin, the veteran Idaho senator won at least 21 of that state's 24 delegates to the Cleveland convention and [as this issue of SOCIAL JUSTICE went to press] was carrying a hot challenge into the very heart of Col. Knox's home state of Illinois.

The National Union for Social Justice, concentrating the young strength of its initial year upon vital congressional district battles, is only incidentally concerned with the national presidential campaign. However, there will be wide interest, and certainly no lack of "repercussions," in Senator Borah's reported declaration for the "key principle" of the National Union's program for social justice: Constitutional money.

Favors Honest Money

Speaking at Carbondale, Ill., this last week, Senator Borah is quoted [although not by the general press] as saying:

> *"The sole power to coin money and regulate the value thereof belongs to the Congress and it ought not be delegated to anybody. Congress alone should exercise this power. Such power should not be given to a privately owned and controlled institution like the Federal Reserve System."*

This appearance of a basic principle of social justice in the midst of a national presidential campaign is deeply significant. It means that the determination of 10 million earnest Americans is making itself heard. Mr. Borah's bold declaration for an honest money system for a return (if he is correctly quoted) to the Constitutional coinage of money by Congress, is more than an answer to the gold money crowd which has been opposing him. It is a most embarrassing pronouncement for the rest of the candidates in his party.

It is a safe prediction that this statement by Borah will not be widely quoted in the press. Such generalizations as "monopoly" and 'standing by the Constitution" will be used by the newspapers to cover the specific pledge to return the control of coinage and central banking

(Continued on page 3)

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Dictators New Problem in War Threat

1937 Due to Be Year of Crisis in International Relations

By Justin Soval

Washington, D. C.—Those who look for a rift in the war clouds which heavily shadow the world feel increasing anxiety as present negotiations advance.

While most eyes watch the drama surrounding Germany's breach of the Locarno Pact, expert observers are aware that recent developments in Asia and Africa bear almost as gravely and immediately upon world peace.

New border incidents in Outer Mongolia increase the tension between Japan and Soviet Russia. Blame and recrimination are heard from both sides. War may flare forth at any time in the Orient from one of these apparently trivial sparks.

In Ethiopia, Italian troops have penetrated to the shores of Lake Tana, the heart of Great Britain's selfish interest in Italy's African expedition. Depending on the objectives revealed by Italy in her drive to the headwaters of British irrigation for the prospering cotton fields of the Sudan, a new European crisis may arise.

1937 Crucial Year

The world waits expectantly the development of this triple war threat. The once flimsy barrier that has prevented the outbreak of major hostilities up to date is the dubious consideration that the great powers are not yet ready for war. Perhaps in all history there has never been a more crucial year than 1937 promises to be.

The world crisis bears a graver aspect because on three central stages of world events great nations seem to be caught in a crossfire of forces almost hopelessly irreconcilable. The point at the heart of all three major crises is the conflict between the right of territorial integrity on the one hand and the fateful surge of expanding populations on the other.

The Italians, the Germans, the Japanese are vital, virile races. Poor in natural resources and territorial possessions, each has a high birth rate. These peoples are bursting their narrow confines. Their urge for colonial expansion is, therefore, virtually the drive of destiny.

Drive of Destiny

Can covenants, protocols, treaties and all the ancient red tape of diplomacy stem that drive? The outlook is anything but heartening. The ominous year of 1937 undoubtedly enfolds the answer to the riddle.

Making the troubles of Europe more vexing and unpredictable than ever before is the new element of dictatorship. The former democratic order has been overthrown in Germany and Italy. In its place has grown-up a power more autocratic than absolute monarchism.

Dictatorship, however, is the camp-follower of Liberty-gone-wrong. It arose by the will of the people and its only sanction is the continuing popular favor.

In that respect is dictatorship most sharply distinguished from the old rule of "divine right." In that aspect, too, lies its great threat to the continuing peace of the world.

Dictators Born of Crisis

Dictatorship is born of a nation's privations. Its source of power is the unifying influence of a common suffering. As a consequence, its inevitable course is to maintain public support by driving to end the privation and suffering or by providing a substitute satisfaction to anesthetize the pain.

This trend of thought can be followed in the careers of both Mussolini and Hitler. As long as the internal organization created the illusion of progress, neither of these men—whom the world calls mad—played a major role in international affairs. Today, they have to look outside their own realms because the rebirth of their nations depends upon territorial expansion and a greater share of the commerce of the world.

Hitler may carry on the appearance of extending German sovereignty over all German soil and thereby maintain for some time to come the 99 per cent confidence of the German people.

But France and the Balkan states, Russia and Poland, know that he cannot stop there. They understand the need for expansion that is the only possible salvation for Germany. And Germany's destiny is Hitler's destiny.

Power Challenges League

Both Mussolini and Hitler have successfully challenged the power and integrity of the League of Nations. The violations of the covenant and other treaties on the part of each has set the example for the other. Each has gained by the advances of the other—almost as if a secret compact between dictators was working out its carefully planned course.

However that may be, there is a new trend in international affairs. Formerly nations could withdraw from a diplomatic or military course and nothing more serious than the overthrow of a cabinet would result. Today, the peace of the world hinges upon the will of individuals—drunk with power or inspired by a great vision—who cannot withdraw from a course once undertaken. In the eyes of Germany, Hitler can't afford to be wrong. Once Mussolini has entered upon a course of action, the will of Italy demands that he succeed!

Opposed to the two great individualists shackled to their destiny, France, Great Britain, Russia, and the lesser powers of Europe are faced with the necessity of maintaining the "status quo."

Seek to Trade Alliances

They would like to revitalize the League of Nations and arm it with military authority to enforce covenants that cannot otherwise withstand the assaults of crushed populations and destiny-driven-dictators. They see, in the established network of agreements, which is (or was) the League, the only mechanism built for the demands of collective security.

The League can be re-established as the guardian of peace and order in Europe if Germany consents to re-enter the League. That is a forlorn hope in the fight of the present indecision of England in playing her treaty role of guarantor of the Locarno Pact.

What will probably eventuate is a patch-work pattern of some sort of League of Europe. In the meanwhile, France will put on all possible pressure to get as much temporary security as possible from the military consultations with Britain and Belgium.

Italy will play every card diplomatically to get France to demand that the League discontinue its economic sanctions. Mussolini will try every trick to force a recognition of Italy's claims in Ethiopia.

With so many intricate and conflicting selfish interests involved, the European interplay of diplomacy during the next several months will include plenty of sparring for nationalist advantage, in which the peace of the world will be a secondary consideration.

THE WEEK IN THE WORLD

Canada

Victoria, B. C.—Reversing its former policy on fishing, Canada will abolish salmon traps on the Pacific coast next year. The ruling was interpreted as a move to co-operate with the United States in conserving salmon resources. . . . The Canadian Forestry Association has started its seventeenth season of visiting rural points in the prairie provinces to urge forest conservation, with a specially outfitted railway lecture car, fitted with sound movie equipment. The films give instructions in planting and caring for tree life together with the benefits of wild game-life conservation. . . . A graduated price scale and a two or three year contract, instead of the customary flat price on a yearly basis, will be offered United States purchasers of paper when Canadian newsprint manufacturers and publishers meet to discuss the 1937 contracts. Increased shipments of newsprint to the United States, due to the presidential campaign year, and diminishing stocks, are the two major reasons advanced by the Canadian newsprint men in their request for higher prices and longer contracts.

◆ ◆ ◆

Ireland

Dublin—The announcement of Ireland's far-famed son, John McCormack, the Irish tenor, that he will retire next year following a farewell concert in London was received with keen regret. Although 51 years of age, it seems hard to believe that his well-poised figure and beautiful voice will be lost to the concert stage. The lyric qualities of his voice and his well-nigh perfect diction will continue through the medium of his many thousands of records. He intimated in his announcement that he may be obliged to give up his American citizenship, secured in 1919 in New York, in order to become Minister of Arts of the Irish Free State. He stated that he would regret very much the necessity of this action, but would be willing to make the sacrifice if he thought he could be of service to Ireland. . . . Valuable historical relics have been unearthed recently, Dr. E. A. Hooton, director of the Harvard Archaeological Expedition to Ireland reveals. Every summer since 1932, Harvard expeditions have worked under the auspices of the National Museum of Ireland and the Belfast Municipal Museum. A prehistoric vault near Mullaghmore, County Sligo, dating back to 2000 B. C., and stone-age weapons are among the important discoveries. This relatively isolated outpost of European civilization developed from prehistoric times its own individual culture and in it the mixtures of races have produced a number of physical and psychological types of extraordinary diversified capabilities. In fact, in their "combination of wit, poetic gifts, belligerency, loyalty, temperamental instability and political flair, the Irish seem unique."

◆ ◆ ◆

Spain

Madrid—Again the political panorama of Spain changes with the ouster of President Niceto Alcala Zamora from the presidency by the Cortes (parliament) by a vote of 238 to 5. The pretext for removing him from office was his dissolving the last parliamentary session "unconstitutionally." However, the underlying reasons were bitterness stored by the bloody stamping out of the 1934 revolt and the charge that the president was seeking to sabotage the development of a "republican revolution," together with the agitation of ever-active Communist leaders endeavoring to set up a Soviet Republic in Spain. The very groups which were instrumental in overthrowing King Alfonso and setting up the republic five years ago with Zamora were the self-same members which ousted him from office. Diego Martinez Barrio, president of parliament and chief of the Republican Union, was designated as temporary president.

◆ ◆ ◆

Poland

Warsaw, Poland—The recent week-long conference in Ignace Paderewski's exiled home at Morges, Switzerland, between him and General Joseph Haller, creator of the Polish American army in France, and Vincent Witos, chief of the Polish defense council in 1920, reflects a concentrated effort to unite and capture the controlling power in Poland, which since 1926 has been dominated by General Pilsudski and his followers. The present president, Ignacy Moscicki, possesses dictatorial powers under the recently revised constitution. . . . The army general staff recently discovered Communist organizations working within the military rank and file. As a result more than 500 were seized in civil and martial stations. Among the disclosures in Warsaw was a high-powered radio station with short-wave receiving and transmitting sets. Instructions and orders were received by this station from the Communist International headquarters in Moscow. Evidently Polish officials, who really have the interest of the country at heart, do not believe in waiting for Moscow to strike.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

EYES and EARS

Continued from Page 1

and private papers, this phase of the court's decision is in effect a direct thrust at the methods used by the Black Senate Committee (investigating lobbying activities) and the notorious Bell inquisition into the Townsend plan.

The Halls of Congress were filled with speculations as to the effect of the court's pronouncement on the future proceedings of these two committees. Will they run the risk of having their work nullified by an appeal to the Supreme Court, or will they change their practice to include a direct statement of the irregularities under investigation and then limit their explorations to the stated charges?

There is little doubt as to what the Supreme Court would hold as constitutional on this matter. Their opinion was supported by two very pointed quotations from earlier court decisions.

They quoted Justice Holmes (speaking of the Jones case) thus:

"Dissociated from the only ground upon which the inquiry had been based, and no other being specified, further pursuit of the inquiry, obviously, would become what Mr. Justice Holmes characterized as 'a fishing expedition for the chance that something discreditable might turn up.'"

They quoted Circuit Court Judge Sawyer thus:

"A general, roving, offensive, inquisitorial, compulsory investigation, conducted by a commission without any allegations, upon no fixed principles, and governed by no rules of law or of evidence, and no restrictions except its own will or caprice, is unknown to our Constitution and laws; and such an inquisition would be destructive of the rights of the citizen, and an intolerable tyranny. Let the power once be established, and there is no knowing where the practice under it would end."

In other words, to quote Lincoln's clear-cut, simple thought: "You can't do the right thing the wrong way."

◆ ◆ ◆

The sins of the New Dealers seem to be catching up with them, as instanced by Secretary Wallace's forced admission that AAA "benefit" payments came to the rescue of a Florida sugar capitalist with over $1,000,000, and saved other corporation farmers with "benefits" of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

There are just two things to be said about that.

First, Senator Vandenberg, who has been heckling the New Deal to open the books, has not turned up something new. The fact that large farmers would benefit largely is as old as the Agricultural Adjustment Act itself. "Saving the wealthy farmer" was an essential phase of the Act. The only news about the whole story is the actual amounts involved.

The second and perhaps most important thing to be said about this new phase of the great political sham battle is that the American people probably will not be impressed as one sinner points the accusing finger at another.

Perhaps Senator Vandenberg, who has definite presidential ambitions—and who is considered in some quarters as a promising dark horse for the reactionary Republicans to put over at the convention—is trying to kick up enough New Deal dust to obscure from public attention the weak spots in his own record.

There are those around Washington who say he will have to kick up a lot of dust to blot out his ardent support of our entry into the World Court of the League of Nations.

He will have to kick up some more to blind the eyes of the friends of the veterans to his uncompromising opposition to the payment of the bonus.

Many of the farm Congressmen feel that Vandenberg and the rest of the Republicans could get farther toward electing a president this fall if they would work out a farm relief scheme that would be constitutional and practical and that would really help the farmer.

They suggest the Thomas-Massingale Bill's principle of protecting the domestic market for the American farmer and providing that he receive the cost of production for his products.

Every other principle has been tried and every principle has failed to restore the farmer's all-important purchasing power. Both parties—or rather, all three parties—Republican, Democratic and New Deal, have scrupulously avoided the cost-of-production approach to the farm problem.

Who knows—perhaps they are afraid it will work.

◆ ◆ ◆

The see-saw hearings, before the House Ways and Means Committee, on the new tax bill continue.

Informed Congressmen fear it will be May 1st or later before a concrete bill can be reported to the House. If that is true, it will delay the adjournment right up to the threshold of the party conventions.

The most significant aspect of the hearings to date is the evident lack of concern for the fellow who will really pay the tax, the man who works for a living and the farmer.

The corporation interests in the discussions are receiving sympathetic attention from members of both parties. But no clever brains are working on the problem of getting the millions of people, who are working harder and realizing less each year, out from under the "final incidence" of practically every form of taxation.

Perhaps it is an unsolvable problem. Perhaps the poor laborer and the poor farmer are hopelessly doomed to be the "fall guys" for our $31-billion national debt.

Perhaps there is no escape. But it would be only decent on the part of our law-makers to make sure they can't do anything about it.

A government must pay its expenses, that is, any government set up by a people must levy on its citizens for its subsistence and continued existence. This right is known as the taxing power, without which no government can exist and perform the functions it was intended to perform by those who created it and vested it with power.

A sound government should collect in the form of taxes only a small part of the earnings of those who are producing wealth. Exorbitant taxation takes too large a part of the new wealth produced each year and leaves crumbs for those who are working and those who own plants and machinery necessary in the production of wealth. Excessive taxation creates a situation wherein no new wealth can be produced.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that those who work must have a share in the new wealth; those who own the factories must have a share. The tax collector must leave a sufficient amount to enable workers to live and provide for old age, and the owners of plants and machinery to replace them as they wear out and become obsolete.

Taxes are collected from those who consume. It is a fallacy to believe that every one who consumes food, clothing and shelter is not paying taxes. He is. The price of an article, whether it be a loaf of bread or a fine automobile, includes the amount of taxation which producers have had to pay. The producer, of course, as long as it is possible, is forced to pass the taxation on to the consumer. When the tax bill gets so high that the consumer cannot buy the product, production and distribution must cease. Excessive taxation defeats the very purposes for which governments exist.

Borah Declares for Coinage of U. S. Money by Congress

Continued from Page 1

to the Congress of the United States.

Hail Wisconsin Victory

The Wisconsin victory is enthusiastically hailed by Borah's managers in Washington. They see in it a favorable omen and an importantly helpful influence upon the forthcoming campaign in Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, the Dakotas, Idaho, Montana and other northwestern states.

According to the Associated Press tabulations, the advisory preferential poll in the Wisconsin primary (2,468 of 2,918 precincts) gave Roosevelt 344,011 and Borah 157,112. All four Borah-pledged delegates at large and 17 district delegates on his slate were elected over unpledged opponents backed by the regular state Republican party organization. In the only congressional district where delegates supporting Gov. Alf ("Call me Alfred") Landon of Kansas were entered, the Landon men ranked far behind the Borah men and the uninstructed.

Chain Store Bill Is Pushed Around

Continued from Page 1

nue" is cool to chain store reform just now. The strategists would prefer that this keen two-edged sword be put out of reach until after the November voting. Somebody might play with it and get hurt.

Meantime, party politics and special interests—and the innocent motives of congressmen who merely want to help with their suggestions—have combined to make a confusing tangle of chain store legislation.

Everybody Took a Hand

To begin with, the Robinson bill on the senate side was rewritten in the judiciary committee as the Robinson-Logan bill, and extended the grocery regulations to include all chain business. Senators Borah and Van Nuys then authored a senate substitute bill.

On the House side, suggestions and improvements became a free-for-all and a half dozen amendments all but disguised the Patman measure, although his name was retained on the hybrid.

In the meantime, congressmen who have gone on record in favor of chain store regulations by their sponsorship of one or another of the amendments are under fire from the chain interests, but no benefits of their martyrdom are accruing to the taxpayers and voters. Probably will not if the annoying chain store mess can be put over for awhile.

Man of Many Banking Tieups

Democratic Party's Holder of Purse Has 'Experience'

Couzens

Washington, D. C.—More interesting suggestions of political "shenanigans" within the ranks of the New Deal were contained in a recent speech of Michigan's Senator Couzens, made on the floor of the Senate. Senator Couzens, by the way, although a millionaire, is considered a liberal, politically, and not radically out of harmony with the aims and plans of the New Deal.

Mr. Couzens finds it difficult to reconcile with his own political ideals the blending of politics, banking and business accomplished by the treasurer of the Democratic National Committee, Mr. Walter J. Cummings.

That remarkable blend was outlined according to Senator Couzens, in "a memorandum from reliable sources," and is made up of the following ingredients:

Mr. Cummings was an "assistant or helper" to the late Secretary of the Treasury Woodin, of J. Pierpont Morgan & Company "preferred list" fame.

Heads Bank, Railroads

Some time after Mr. Woodin's death, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation advanced $50-million to the Continental Bank of Chicago, and Mr. Cummings was made chairman of the board "although he had had no previous banking experience." His salary was $50,000 per year, which was later raised to $75,000.

Mr. Cummings was also made a trustee of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad, recommended by Jesse Jones, chairman of the RFC. This position paid him $15,000 per year.

Senator Couzens proceeded to point out that the Continental Bank is a large creditor of the Milwaukee road.

Then the Senator disclosed that Mr. Cummings is a co-receiver for the Chicago City Railways and a director of four other companies, including the American Car and Foundry Company.

The Senator further stated: "It is alleged, and I have been unable either to confirm or deny the statement, that Mr. Cummings is interested in the Brill Manufacturing Co., which makes equipment for cities to use in the transportation of urban passengers." [Editor's note—The Brill Manufacturing Company is a subsidiary of the American Car and Foundry Company.]

Holds Party Purse

In addition to being all of those things, Mr. Cummings is treasurer of the Democratic National Committee, whose chairman is the New Deal's Postmaster Farley.

Senator Couzens made no charge against Mr. Cummings. In effect, he merely suggested that so much power and influence concentrated in a national political figure might be considered out of harmony with the general welfare.

No doubt there are many others among the rank and file of the American people who feel as does the Senator from Michigan.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Social Justice
A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

REV. CHAS. E. COUGHLIN
Editor-in-Chief

Published by The Social Justice Publishing Co.

April 17, 1936 Vol. I, No. 6

Copyright, 1936, by The Social Justice Publishing Company, published weekly; publication and editorial office, Royal Oak, Michigan. Subscription price, United States and possessions, $2.00 per year. Unless otherwise directed, we begin all subscriptions with the current issue. Entered as second class matter, March 12, 1936, at the Post Office at Royal Oak, Michigan, under the act of March 3, 1879.

PLUTOCRACY COME TO JUDGMENT!

ITS doom cannot be long deferred. Plutocracy has at last come to judgment in the United States! On Sunday afternoon of April 5th, a new era in American history was inaugurated by the National Union for Social Justice.

Then, for the first time, our plain people asserted themselves in a nation-wide mobilization, altogether unique and unprecedented in the annals of self-government or in the theory of civic organization. Of transcendent importance, therefore, becomes the duty of isolating, defining, and presenting for closer inspection, this phenomenon so unexampled in all our previous American life.

The Sham-Battles Are Over!

Hitherto, to promote the general welfare, to espouse the cause of the people, to defend their interests against the organized might of special privilege and of the money-power, no national machinery has functioned except political parties and partisan organizations. Inherent, too, in the very nature of a political organization has loomed the apparent necessity that its leaders should be primarily practical politicians, essentially office-seekers, and that they should strenuously aspire to the controlling positions in government and to the personal managements of all public affairs. Not to speak of their ambition to enjoy the emoluments of office, and to secure for themselves and their dependents the natural rewards of place, prestige and power.

Hardly less inevitable, or less irresistibly enticing, has been the lure of that Machiavellian maxim, "to the victors belong the spoils". For the seasoned politician, the significance of winning elections lies far less in the triumph of issues, far less in the prospect and opportunity of translating the eternal principles of social justice into beneficent legislation, than in the bonanza stroke of luck that can now handsomely reward faithful adherents with political plums and securely cement the solidarity of the party machine by a judicious distribution of government jobs.

The Real Battle Has Begun!

But from all such partisan intents and purposes, the National Union stands rigidly and uncompromisingly aloof. From its membership, all congressional office-holders, present and prospective, are remorselessly excluded. Unlike political parties, it has no candidates of its own to support. It endorses candidates solely for the principles of social justice that they publicly profess. All hope of the material attractions of public office, it demands that its members shall stoically, nay heroically, renounce.

To the National Union, one ideal purpose, and one alone, is of paramount, supreme and all-absorbing concern—its platform of principles backed by the crusader's high resolve that, though Bankers and the Bosses of Big Business, with their embattled billions, may rave and rage in truceless and truculent opposition, those sixteen points of Social Justice shall at no distant day be triumphantly enacted into law.

For Plutocracy at last has come to judgment! Long and arduous may be the battle that awaits us; but can we doubt that, for the true Democracy of the forgotten man and of the forgotten masses, eventual victory must infallibly be ours!

◆ ◆ ◆

A CHECK-UP ON CHAINS

"MAN is born free: behold him everywhere in chains!" That phrase of Rousseau's, though forming but the first line of his sophistical "Contrat Social", served nevertheless to kindle the fires of the French Revolution.

But could not those fires have been forestalled? Was there no premonitory rattle of the chains? Might not a little forethought have frustrated even the forceful imagery of the pseudo-philosopher's phrase?

Yes, if, behind that flaming phrase, popular impotence or official apathy had not also left flaring and unchecked for generations certain monstrously flagrant facts of social injustice and oppression.

Not that the masses hugged their chains! But in the muffled groans of the manacled millions, the aristocratic and plutocratic classes failed to discern the portents of their own impending doom.

The Wisdom of Hindsight

Today, with the wisdom of hindsight, we wonder what intelligent and forehanded reform might not then have accomplished —if not to strike off the shackles altogether, at least to ease the chafing of the chains—ere that century-long series of social convulsions was allowed to spring from that ever-spreading "spirit of revolutionary change", which Leo XIII, at late as 1891, had still to deplore in the first sentence that gives a name to his "Rerum Novarum".

And today, will the smug self-complacency of individualistic capitalism continue blandly to blink similarly at intolerable abuses that must inevitably embroil the world in still more universal revolutions?

Suppose that, in 1848, when Marx and Engels concluded their "Communist Manifesto" with that militant adjuration—"Workers of the world, unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains!"—some National Union for Social Justice had honestly set to work to change conditions that were riveting and perpetuating those chains. Would Leo still have beheld, around the neck of labor, "a yoke little better than that of slavery itself", or would the history of our own generation now have to be written so literally in blood and mothers' tears?

Certainly, we cannot flatter ourselves that gyves and fetters are today mere nightmares of a darker era, now happily gone beyond recall. Out of the depths of our present world-depression—the direst calamity that has afflicted mankind since the flood—the heavy-ironed victims are crying aloud for some great Liberator or Deliverer, to lead them forth from the house of bondage, to break their chains and set them free.

The Fortitude of Foresight

Upon the wide-awake eye of a world too long distraught, what a vision at last begins to break of that brighter but inevitable day when our National Union for Social Justice, through its campaign of universal education and with the co-operative endeavor of all men of good will, shall triumphantly effect the emancipation. Emancipation of the *factory-worker,* from industrial autocracy, from the impoverishment ensuing on the concentration of wealth, from the thralldom of wages determined, not by social justice, but by economic force, and from involuntary servitude in the army of eleven millions of unemployed. Of the *farmer,* from the shackles of usurious interest-rates, and from those raw-material prices in gold that foreigners fix below the American cost of production. Of all *business,* big and little, from servile dependence on that predatory system of credit-money, obtainable only by contracting loans—i. e., debts to banks—involving the constant tribute of interest to its piratical creators, and finally empowering such banker-privateers to call these loans and confiscate the collateral thereof—real wealth and real property that the bankers, of course, have done nothing to produce. Of *domestic bankers,* themselves, from the periodical bankruptcy and spoliation engineered by the Federal Reserve Banks of *industry,* of *government,* of *international relations,* peace and war, from subjugation to the pitiless and galling tyranny of imperialistic financiers; and of *all the world,* from that "financial dictatorship" and "despotic economic domination" which, as Pius XI says, the international bankers—by their control of credit and its allotment, by their arbitrary creation and destruction of the world's purchasing power, and by their deliberately contrived scarcity of the medium of exchange—exert over the very soul and life-blood of business, so that none dare breathe against their will! Shall not liberty, through our National Union, be allowed once more to enlighten the world, or do you cherish the cheerless prospect of transmitting to your children a newer and heavier heritage of chains?

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Flood Control Can Put Labor to Work

Permanent Program of Public Works Suggested by Recent Disasters

By the Labor Editor

EMPLOYMENT of a considerable part of the nation's jobless upon some permanent program of flood control is suggested by the disasters of recent weeks.

Boondoggling enterprises have held the limelight of scandalous publicity ever since the government's public works program was put into execution. Although the original report of the National Resources Board discussed conservation of soil from erosion, politicians made it a laughing-stock.

There is now apparent the realization that—despite the failures in administration of the public works program—flood control can be made the one permanent and dependable works project. It becomes a major argument for labor usefully and economically employed in conserving our vast natural resources and creating real wealth.

Floods' Destruction Costly

The devastation wrought by recent floods destroyed more than $2-billion worth of property. Nor is there any assurance of protection against a recurrence of such destruction.

Here is a nation with approximately 12 millions unemployed. In this same nation there is destroyed in one springtime freshet the equivalent of an annual living wage of a million men. Yet the destruction of the $2-billion in wealth is only part of the picture. Annually there is carried down the Mississippi and from its tributaries millions of tons of America's most fertile soil.

That Mississippi basin alone has over one half the fertile soil of the country. Each year the fertile plains of the Dakotas and Montana on the west, and Ohio and Pennsylvania on the east, as well as all states between send down their wealth in top-soil to the Gulf of Mexico.

Undoes Century's Work

It takes centuries for nature to produce one inch of top-soil. It takes sometimes only days or hours to waste and destroy what a century produces.

Intimately associated with the immediate problem of flood-control, which means for the present the building of enough dams and reservoirs to impound the surplus waters, is the more important program of removing the causes of these floods. That cause, of course, is, principally, the denuding of America of her forests, thereby destroying nature's own flood-control system.

So reforestation and afforestation become part and parcel of any permanent plan of public works. New forests and the conservation of present forests will ultimately solve not only the problem of flood-control, but also solve the companion problem of the dust storm.

Dust Storm Twin Peril

How strange it must have appeared to many to read the news headlines recounting the hundreds of victims of flood from New England to the mouth of the Mississippi, while at the same time we read of the dust storms of Oklahoma and Texas.

Both were moving millions of tons of top-soil from America's most fertile fields. The one washed the alluvial soil on down the Mississippi into the Gulf of Mexico and on out into the Atlantic. The other shifted millions of tons from western plains over the eastern states and out into the same Atlantic.

The great problem then is to place men at work who, by their labor will conserve the soil resources of the nation. The great immediate task is the conservation of the already depleted top-soil of the great central plains of the United States.

Flood Laws Lag

From Maine throughout New England, in New York and Pennsylvania, in Ohio and southward, every eastern state has seen the frightful effects of devastating flood, killing hundreds of citizens, destroying millions upon millions of inventory in homes, in buildings and in goods.

Nearly 200 persons were drowned in these floods, thousands are dying now of exposure and disease. Many more thousands are victims of disease. Already over $300-million is the estimate of property destroyed.

In 1928 the first flood-control act of any consequence passed Congress. This act provided that the problem be studied in the light of scientific flood relief. It was to be a long-range program prompted by the disastrous floods of that year. It must be realized that there is little hope that anything in the line of conservation will be done unless there is an overwhelming demonstration by "acts of God" that something should be done. So the floods of 1928 brought 300 reports filed with Congress by the army engineers, recommending as many projects for the control of floods in the Mississippi basin.

"Pork" Tactics Fatal

This work was of tremendous import to the nation.

Then came the necessity to place the nation's unemployed at work.

In January, 1935, the House of Representatives commenced its deliberations on a flood control bill and instead of limiting its consideration to the projects which had already been reported to Congress, it amended the recommendation of the engineers to include studies regarding which Congress as yet possessed no engineering data.

At midnight, the day before the session ended, the Flood Control Bill came to the Senate and project after project was added in committee. The result was that when the bill reached the Senate floor it had to be recommitted for another study. In the meantime the nation has had its second reminder from nature itself. This year's floods bring popular support to a measure introduced six years ago.

The complete program involves an expenditure of perhaps $8-billion. Such a program includes the national conservation of soil, water and power. It includes not only dams for flood control but, where practical, uses these dams for future power development. It includes not only the flood dam but the restoration of nature's own conservation scheme, the forest and the grasses.

Within a few weeks the National Resources Board, acting in conjunction with the army engineers, will place before Congress a single unified program of control based upon the consolidation and unification of projects already thoroughly studied. The Senate is on record with a program of "policy" which, seemingly, is a definite realization that the program must be distinguished from the traditional "pork-barrel" legislation of the historic Rivers and Harbors and Postoffice bills of past decades.

Flood Control and Labor

Such a single program of permanent public works is of unestimable value to labor in this country. Assume an ultimate cost of $8-billion. Roughly $4-billion should go to labor directly and $4-billion for materials. This second item, of course, goes indirectly to labor also. At a living wage of $2,000 a year, the direct benefit is a year's work for 2 million men.

How economic is such work?—Can men be employed gainfully at public work?—Is it socialistic?—These are the questions that arise.

Today such men as Senator George Norris of Nebraska accept the estimates of the engineers that nearly one half of the soil of America is already wasted in erosion. Others estimate that the soil of America will not last fifty years unless adequate flood-control is made available.

Approximately $500-million is needed at once. Approximately $1½-billion is needed to complete projects already past the stage of engineering approval.

In place of raking leaves and dredging creeks here is a nation's essential work. It can go the way of the "pork-barrel" or the way of statesmanship.

Nation Demands Action

There are those in Congress who will never see a permanent public works program unless hidden in its provisions is "pork" for their constituents. These are the petty minds in the House who so amended the Flood Control Bill last June as to endanger its passage. These are the petty minds in the Senate who in the closing hours had to have their own pet schemes included.

The nation demands action. Neither the House nor the Senate should permit the measure to degenerate into a "pork-barrel."

Protected by the recommendation of engineers, the program should pass Congress without these assaults of the selfish. Then Congress should insist on the living—not the prevailing—wage being paid to every worker on flood-control projects.

Work Is Economic

Two million men working a year is not a measure of the work to be done. A half million men working four years is far closer to the practical picture. That accomplishment is measured by the protection given against the recurrence of such floods as are now witnessed.

Were the flood-control program completed, we would have saved practically $2-billion this year alone.

The program is not socialistic. Private enterprise has neither the power, the capacity nor the will to enter upon the conservation of natural resources. Private enterprise has too long been associated with the exploitation and destruction of natural resources rather than interested in either preservation or conservation.

On the other hand, the problem of unemployment is permanent. There must be a permanent remedy. We are offered a choice between relief and permanent, useful public works.

America might listen to the flood-control engineers, and not to a little group of selfish politicians to whom government expenditure in the past has merely meant the opportunity for votes in their districts.

Notice to Unit Presidents

On account of a post office ruling which cuts off non-contributing subscribers to SOCIAL JUSTICE, an increased demand for copies of the paper is being encountered by local units of the National Union everywhere.

It is important that local units order their bundles of papers promptly and in quantity sufficient to meet their requirements. On the initiation of the bulk sales experiment a week ago, many units reported their supplies quickly exhausted. At congressional district meetings, held on April 5th, bundles of several hundred were quickly disposed of.

Local unit presidents may obtain the papers in bulk from the central office, at a wholesale rate of 2½ cents, which barely meets the cost of production and handling. The papers sell for 5 cents a copy, and the profits go to the local unit treasury.

Please use the coupon below for either individual subscriptions or for orders in quantity.

SUBSCRIPTION COUPON

Please fill out and mail at once to

Social Justice Publishing Co., Royal Oak, Michigan.

1—I hereby subscribe to SOCIAL JUSTICE, weekly newspaper of the National Union for Social Justice. Enclosed please find $_____ in payment for my subscription.

or

2—Please send me C. O. D. at 2½ cents each copy_____ copies for bulk distribution as outlined above.

Please send the paper to the following address:

Name_____

Address_____

City_____, State_____

Date_____, 193____.

Signed_____

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

America's Youth

Hand of Reds Is Disclosed in Student Peace Strikes

Is This Your Pledge?

"We pledge not to support the government of the United States in any war it may conduct."—Oxford Student pledge.

"If war comes I will not fight: if war comes I will not enlist: if war comes I will not be conscripted: if war comes I will do everything to oppose it, so help me God." — Radical student pledge.

Or is This It?

"We abhor the evils of war and we implore the heads of our government to exert every effort humanly possible to keep us out of any future war. But if legitimate authorities should call upon the citizens of America to defend their country in a just war, we pledge ourselves to fulfill the duties of American citizenship, unhesitatingly and to the end. We stand for peace not pacificism."

Students pledge of loyalty to America and her ideals.

Peace Strike Called

Shortly after this issue reaches you — on April 22nd at 11 a. m.— thousands of students in America will leave their classrooms in colleges and high schools on a purported "peace strike."

The American Student Union, red and radical blend of the Communist-controlled National Student League, and the so-called Socialists' Student League for Industrial Democracy, effected at the Y.W.C.A. at Columbus, Ohio, on December 27-29, 1935, recently sent out to all college presidents a letter announcing the strike. Their letter reads in part:

> "Our peace strike has two major purposes. It serves as an immediate and powerful pressure upon those who believe that they can cajole us into the trenches as easily as in 1917. The strike is a dress rehearsal of what the younger generation intends to do if American imperialism plunges us into another war. Secondly, because it is an interruption of normal academic routine, seriously entered into by thousands of students, it acts as a deterrent upon those who are skyrocketing appropriations, extending military training, initiating disaffection bills."

The American Student Union letter does not tell the college presidents that it was refused the use of buildings at Ohio State University last Christmas and that its delegates, after their convention in other quarters (the Y.W.C.A.), went in large numbers to the meetings of the League against War and Fascism in Cleveland, Ohio.

Browder Crony Leader

The League against War and Fascism is headed by Dr. Harry F. Ward, who appears to share some of the views of Earl Browder, head of the Communist party in the United States.

Dr. Ward was reported to have repeated the old canards against Father Coughlin just a few months back and will bear plenty of watching. The Methodists of the west coast did not seem to welcome him in their Communist-infested region and Methodists of the midwest repudiated his leadership at Pittsburgh recently.

Dr. Ward recently wired bitter protests against Chicago and New York police censors banning a propaganda-laden Soviet film from the screens of those two cities. He can be depended upon to appear in every sensational role, but to stoutly deny that he is a Communist.

Dr. Ward's fine dutch diplomatic hand can be seen throughout this peace strike. We consider him to be a fit leader for a mob of insolent student malcontents!

◆ ◆ ◆

Joe College Kids Himself

Within the past few weeks the campuses of the country have sprouted two new organizations, "The Veterans of Future Wars" and "The Future Gold Star Mothers."

Some real humor and attempted ridicule have been injected into their displays and publicity, but we think the funniest thing about it is that the students of one school we know of who are demanding the prepaid bonus are the very ones who have signed the Oxford oath not to defend their country if it is attacked.

As one hairbrained redeyed group of Massachusetts collegians gathered around a soapbox student orator last Peace Strike Day, a group of students who had sense of the obvious entrenched themselves on top of a nearby building and let down large signs bearing these legends:

"GROW BEARDS IN PROTEST OF WAR."

"DOWN WITH THE PACIFISTS!"

"FOR BIGGER AND BETTER WARS."

The Flint, Michigan, Post 822, Veterans of Foreign Wars, put the war resisters squarely on the spot when they named a committee to recommend 90 days' military service for members of the Future Veterans' organization.

An engineering professor who served in the World war softly scoffed at the project. He said: "It's simply the urge for publicity. It gives them something novel to think about and to worry over. It's all good natured kidding. Nothing will come of it and in six months or a year it will die out completely."

We Part Company

And so we see this radical Communist-inspired yapping of malcontent students go into the limbo of forgotten hopes. Why can't they be led by sound thinkers and organizers? Why can't they embrace the fifteenth principle of the National Union for Social Justice? This reads:

"I believe that in the event of a war FOR THE DEFENSE OF OUR NATION AND ITS LIBERTIES, there shall be a conscription of WEALTH as well as a conscription of men."

Yet these very empty-headed, blinded people will tell you that Father Coughlin is a "demagogue." That he is a Fascist. When the truth is that he has the one satisfying solution for the situation.

We will be rushed into war by the international bankers, munitions makers, the profiteers whose greed and avarice will ignore the bruised bodies and maimed limbs, the shell-shocked nerves and poison-gassed throats of those who give the full measure of devotion on the field of carnage.

Can't they see the light that to break the hold of the money changer, and putting human rights above property rights, is the only effective way to stop war. Haven't they the intelligence to learn or the good will to co-operate on a worthwhile program that will be something else than a tinkling cymbal and sounding brass, or the monotonous repetition of words, words, words?

Let us have some intelligent thought for a change.

Are there no administrators, professors or student leaders who can pave the way?

Vigilance Groups to Watch Peace Strike in School

Let the *Vigilance Committee* in your school investigate the proposed peace strike in your school. If it embodies principles and a pledge that are against the duty of every American, either gather your strength to prevent such a strike, or notify the newspapers that the radical group sponsoring the strike does not represent the better element of thinking students in your school. The newspapers and the school faculty will be your allies.

Don't let yourselves be accused of favoring war or unscrupulous imperialism. Modern youth holds no brief for war. We recognize that the age-old recourse of disputing nations to arms is immoral. We, too, protest against the evil of needless bloodshed, of maimed arms and ruined lives, all caused by blundering, stupid statesmanship for the ultimate benefit of the war profiteer. We don't believe in fattening the financial reports of armament firms by our blood.

BUT, we are American enough to love the land that bore us, that holds the only promise of security in a world treading the narrow brink of war and world revolution.

We want peace . . . but not a peace bought by the Judas pledge of refusal to bear arms in defense of our homes.

Here is a job for the youth *Vigilance Committee*. The Communists want an unqualified pledge refusing to bear arms, for it gives them the opportunity to bore from within, to make you forsake loyalty to a governmental system of free men, not slaves of a Communistic state.

We want peace—but not peace at such a price!

Youth Won't Violate Duty

On last week's Youth Page we made some suggestions for the campaign against Fascism and Communism.

On Wednesday of next week the American Student Union, with headquarters in New York, is sponsoring a national Peace Strike, in which it is expected that 300,000 students in high schools and colleges all over the nation will participate.

The National Strike is intended, on the surface, to be essentially a student protest against the folly of war. In reality, it will be a subtly infused program of radicalism, of protest against all the traditions of Americanism that we hold dear. The sponsors of the program, the American Student Union, must be accused of definite Communistic leanings, though this is not stated in their program for peace.

No Compromise With Duty

Students may participate in these Peace Strikes, but only as they protest against war. As American students, *you may not participate in any pledge refusing to bear arms for your country.*

Why? Because the pledges formulated by these groups will demand refusal to bear arms, whether your country is in danger or not. When country, home and family are in danger of violation, it is the duty of every American to rise to the defense.

Fundamentally what our anti-war friends want is to make jingoists, militarists, international bankers, munition makers and the exploiters realize that youth will not be led to the slaughter for their greed and aggrandizement.

With that purpose we are in entire, complete and unanimous accord. We want the profits taken out of war. We want enacted the legislation of Senator Nye to conscript capital along with men when the next war breaks.

Youth Pawn in Game

We heard the secretary of a board of commerce, recently returned from a week's conference with national leaders, glibly tell the members of a business executives luncheon club: "There will be a world war in 1937. Why 1937? Because Germany will have completed her armament by that time. Will we be in it? Yes. Why? Because we have too many poker chips in the game to stay out of it."

That board of commerce man wouldn't dare give that talk to any alert group of college men. They know that "the poker chips" belong to the international banker and the munition makers and that youth are the cards and victims and pawns in the game they play.

Youth has a new attitude toward war. In a war of defense and for their rights they will fight. But they will be cautious and deliberate before they are drawn into another maelstrom for the defense of others money and the enrichment of other pampered lives.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

NATIONAL UNION NEWS

National Union Welds Units in District Groups

THE first vital step in the progress of the National Union for Social Justice was taken on the afternoon of April 5th.

That day will go down in history as memorable for our nation's dedication anew to the God-given rights of the people; namely life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

In every state, from Maine to California, groups of earnest, determined citizens gathered for the purpose of knitting their small local units — comparable to living cells — into a powerful, co-ordinate body which will reclaim those rights which have been wrested from us by the vested interests.

Cross Section of U. S.

In approximately 300 congressional districts throughout the nation, 54,000 officers of the National Union for Social Justice met in busy sessions which, in many instances, continued into the early hours of Monday. Congressional district organizations were effected and officers were elected, or nominated for future election. In all cases there was sincere enthusiasm for the promotion of social justice, regardless of race, nationality, religion or political diversities.

It was a true cross-section of America. For what was perhaps the first time in our history, so widely diverse a group of Americans came together without partisan political interest, not in the following of some self-seeking leadership, but wholly in the interest of the common welfare of all the people.

The great inarticulate masses of the public found their voice and made that voice effective in these initial sessions of National Union delegates. The marvel is not that in some instances there was dissention and confusion, or that despite precautions crafty politicians made inroads upon the closed meetings; the marvel is that there were so few such instances. Out of the untrained mass of this country-wide membership, unlearned in parliamentary law and innocent of the tricks of political assemblage—the raw material as it were, of Americanism — there took form and force the leaven of social justice.

Union Moves Forward

Public lethargy has been awakened. The National Union for Social Justice is now organized for effective action. Its next step is to be the endorsation of candidates for Congress. Approval of those congressmen whose records already give testimony of their devotion to social justice; or the endorsement of new aspirants—many of them earnest professional men new to politics—but pledged in their published announcements to support the sixteen principles of social justice, still lie ahead.

The political ballyhoo of a presidential campaign year is not confusing the voters of the National Union, whose units have their eyes on Congress. It is in the halls of Congress that the nation's laws are made. Here the people rule. Presidential vetoes can be—and are—overridden. The American people in their legislative halls are sovereign. The time and the means to exercise that sovereignty are at hand.

The interest, enthusiasm and active co-operation demonstrated by the groups of local and district officers who came together on April 5th, show that the common people are not ignorant, as the politicians so often would have us think. Nor are they any longer content to continue as slaves of the pagan god "Gold."

They have an ideal and they have a method. They have a leadership, and they bring a following.

History is already being remade. The National Union for Social Justice is on its way.

District Assembly Meetings

IT is to be regretted and deprecated that in some cases the congressional district assembly meetings held on April 5th violated regulations prescribed by the central office of the National Union.

The rules laid down in the April letter, which was sent to every state supervisor, deputy supervisor and local president, were not carried out.

Inefficient scrutineers were posted at the entrances to the meeting places and allowed persons to attend who had no business at the assemblies.

Meetings were held in halls where more than one entrance was used.

The letters of credentials were not carefully examined, initialed and dated, then re-checked.

The meetings were not conducted according to parliamentary procedure, either because the chairman was not familiar with parliamentary rules or did not want to enforce them.

Standing and oral votes were taken after it had been clearly specified that every vote must be by recorded ballot.

It is to be hoped that at all future assemblies, these acts of omission and commission will be eliminated so that there will be no grounds for confusion, trickery or claims of unconstitutional procedure.

The rules are stated very plainly in the April letter. There is no excuse for anyone attending these meetings not knowing how they should be carried on. It would be well for the president of each local unit to go over this letter several times, until all the points contained therein are clearly understood, and also to secure a book on parliamentary procedure and make a study of it, together with the other officers and members of his unit.

It will be realized by all intelligent persons that the above-stated occurrences are a disgrace to the democratic principles around which the National Union has been fashioned.

Local Units Are Welcome to Conduct Social Affairs

A few weeks ago Father Coughlin announced over the air that, in order to do away with the necessity of social affairs, which had been held by some local units in places of questionable character, he had decided to permit presidents of units to sell copies of the newspaper SOCIAL JUSTICE, the profits therefrom to go to the local units.

However, due to the great number of letters which have been received protesting the elimination of social gatherings, a new ruling has been put into force.

Small affairs, such as bunco and card parties, may be held in the homes of members for the attendance of other members of that unit and their friends. It is to be remembered, however, that no general publicity is to be given to these parties.

On the other hand, the members of several local units in a congressional district may combine their forces in holding a large gathering, be it a party or a dance. However, before any arrangements have been made or agreements for publicity, etc., entered into, they must first secure the approbation of their congressional district officers or, if these have not been elected, that of the deputy supervisor in the district. They must also inform the central office at Royal Oak, Michigan, as to all the important details before such an affair is held.

Of course it is understood clearly that these affairs will not be held in beer parlors. Nor are they to take place in halls of bad or questionable reputation, nor those which are located in undesirable sections of the city. It is also understood that the entertainment must be of the cleanest, highest type, before which no one need feel ashamed.

The importance of the work undertaken by the National Union for Social Justice must not at any time become subordinated to mere good times and entertainment. Only as this good fellowship and these entertainments advance the welfare and general interests of the National Union are they to be encouraged or approved.

The foes of social justice, and those whose private interests are endangered by the program of the National Union, can be depended upon to miss no opportunity to criticize its activities. Officers and members of the local units, therefore, will be especially on guard to avoid those occasions which might give our zealous critics and confusionists their opportunity to counteract our good work already done.

This new ruling permitting social gatherings does not in any way countermand that portion of Father Coughlin's announcement pertaining to the sale of papers by the local units. Demand for individual copies of SOCIAL JUSTICE is mounting on every hand.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How Congressmen Stand

Will you please inform us as to the attitudes of the Senators and Representatives now holding office relative to legislation which pertains to social justice?

As soon as the present session of Congress adjourns a bulletin containing complete information of this nature will be published and distributed by this office. Up until that time, anyone writing to "Congressional Intelligence," Washington, D. C., may secure any Congressman's voting record.

◆ ◆ ◆

Vote at Primaries

How should a member of the National Union vote at the primaries when there is no candidate endorsed by the National Union running for his party?

At the primary elections the voter should stick to his party. We do not want anyone to change his political affiliations because of the National Union. However, when the time comes to vote at the final elections, if there is no Congressional candidate in your party carrying the endorsation of the National Union, then you may split your ticket and vote for someone else who is endorsed.

◆ ◆ ◆

Are You Qualified?

The National Union has been organized for the purpose of attaining social justice by means of the ballot. Will you be permitted to cast a ballot in the coming elections this year?

Many have not given this matter a thought and many of those who have, are greatly confused by recent changes in the registration and election laws. As these laws vary in the different states it is up to the individual to contact his city or county clerk and make sure that he is complying with all the requirements. In some states registration is permanent as long as the person votes every year. In others, one must re-register every presidential election year. In all states, when a change of address has been made, this change must be recorded in the registration books. Officers of local units should impress these facts upon their members.

◆ ◆ ◆

Credit to Organizers

Should not some responsibility and credit be given to the organizers of units; i.e., supposing that these organizers were not elected to any unit office?

Indeed, a great deal of credit should be, and is, given the organizers of local units by the central office of the National Union. As for responsibility, that ceases when each unit becomes fully organized; in other words, when the unit's officers have been duly elected. In numerous cases the organizer was elected to one of the offices, due to the fact that he was in the foreground in the minds of the members because of his interest and efforts in organizing.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

FATHER COUGHLIN'S

A Message to the National Union

Sunday *April 5, 1936*

AS TEMPORARY PRESIDENT of the National Union, it is my privilege not only to address the American public and the members of the National Union. Today there is the added privilege and duty to address my remarks to more than 54,000 officers of this organization who have assembled in approximately 300 congressional districts.

Directing the activities of these assemblages are either the state supervisors or their deputies, or local unit presidents appointed for this task by the central office. The purpose of these congressional district meetings is, in some instances, to nominate and elect district officers and to endorse candidates for Congress; in some others, merely to nominate the officers with the understanding that the elections will be held, if not today, then no later than April 26th. Thus, in those states, where ample time permits, it is expedient to postpone endorsing candidates for Congress. Only in those states where time is at a premium, due to the proximity of the primary elections, should an attempt be made to carry out the endorsements today.

However, whether or not elections or endorsements take place this afternoon, it will be the duty of the presiding officer to inform me immediately by registered letter of what transpires at this meeting. No one but the presiding officer is permitted to give out any publicity relative to this or any other congressional meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen, your presiding officer has in his possession the regulations governing the conduct of this meeting. Abide by them faithfully as you launch the first concentrated attack against the money changers and their servants.

Thus, while paying deserved tribute to the thousands of ladies and gentlemen whose sacrificial and intelligent labors have been chiefly responsible for calling the National Union into being, may I proceed with this afternoon's address.

I

Officers of the National Union, I speak to you regardless of your religious or political affiliations and indifferent to your racial heritages. I regard you as sincere American citizens who are determined to place patriotism above partyism and justice above bigotry.

You are the duly elected officers of a courageous group of citizens who, under your leadership, are about to prove to posterity that they are neither defeatists, limply surrendering to the extremists of communism and dictatorship, nor listless cowards fearing to take up political arms against the cruelties of modern capitalism.

Yours are the traditions of the past—those of Washington, who rebelled against the domination of unjust exploiters; those of Lincoln, who wagered the destiny of a nation rather than succumb in cringing compromise to the presumed rights of slave traffickers.

More than that, yours are the hopes of the future. With me you visualize the vast tracts of fertile fields, the unexplored depths of precious mines, the God-given benedictions of productive factories, together with the skilled engineers and trained mechanics. Pioneers that you are, you are looking beyond the sunset of this age of needless want to the tomorrow of plenitude when the naked will be clothed, the hungry fed, and the bounteous wealth of America distributed through the medium of a financial system based not upon scarcity and debt but upon plenitude and production.

Both the traditions of the past and the hopes of the future inspire you to fight for economic independence with the determination of rescuing America and the world from the bondage of international banking.

I need not recall for you that both the laboring and the agricultural classes of America are forced to work for less than a living wage while the owners of industry boastfully proclaim that their profits are increasing. I need not suggest to you that the fallacy of borrowing ourselves out of debt with billions of dollars created by bankers will impose unbearable burdens upon both you and your children. Nor need I analyze for you the insanity of attempting to perpetuate an economic system which has not only been the breeder of wars but which proclaims that financial rights are more sacred than human rights. Almighty God never intended that His children should bargain through their elected rulers to repay with endless hours of toil the fictitious loans created by a privileged class. Nor did the founding fathers of our nation entertain such an injustice when they incorporated in our Constitution the definite provision that Congress has the right to coin and regulate the value of our money—a right which has been stolen from you with the result that both divine justice and American liberty have become mockeries in the markets of the money changers.

Almost eighty years ago Abraham Lincoln said:

"A house divided against itself cannot stand. This government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free. The Union will become all one thing or all the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction; or its advocates will push it forward till it shall become alike lawful in all the states, old as well as new, North as well as South.

"These antagonistic systems (the slave labor system and the free labor system) are continually coming into closer contact, and collision results. Shall I tell you what this collision means? They who think that it is accidental, unnecessary, the work of interested or fanatical agitators, and therefore ephemeral, mistake the case altogether. It is an irrepressible conflict between enduring and opposing forces, and it means that the United States will, sooner or later, become either entirely a slaveholding nation, or entirely a free-labor nation. Either the cotton and rice-fields of South Carolina and the sugar plantations of Louisiana will ultimately be tilled by free labor, and Charleston and New Orleans become marts of legitimate merchandise alone, or else the rye-fields and wheat-fields of Massachusetts and New York must again be surrendered by their farmers to slave culture and to the production of slaves; and Boston and New York become once more markets for trade in the bodies and souls of men."

Today these words are as applicable as they were in 1858 when Lincoln prophesied the impending catastrophe of the Civil War. The privileged slave holders of modern finance and the democratic believers in the power of Congress to coin and regulate for all the value of money—these factions are in such antagonistic conflict that either the money creators eventually will control all industry, all agriculture, all commerce, and all wealth in some slavish, dictatorial state, or else those of us who cling to constitutional Americanism will annul once and for all the privately owned Federal Reserve Banking System. Private money creation and sound Americanism cannot march down the years together without necessitating a conflict more terrible than that envisioned by Lincoln.

Every laborer who bends over a lathe, every farmer who follows a furrow, every clerk or executive or president of a corporation who submits to the unseen lash of the money creators is a slave in a truer sense than was the exploited negro in the cotton fields of the Carolinas in Lincoln's day.

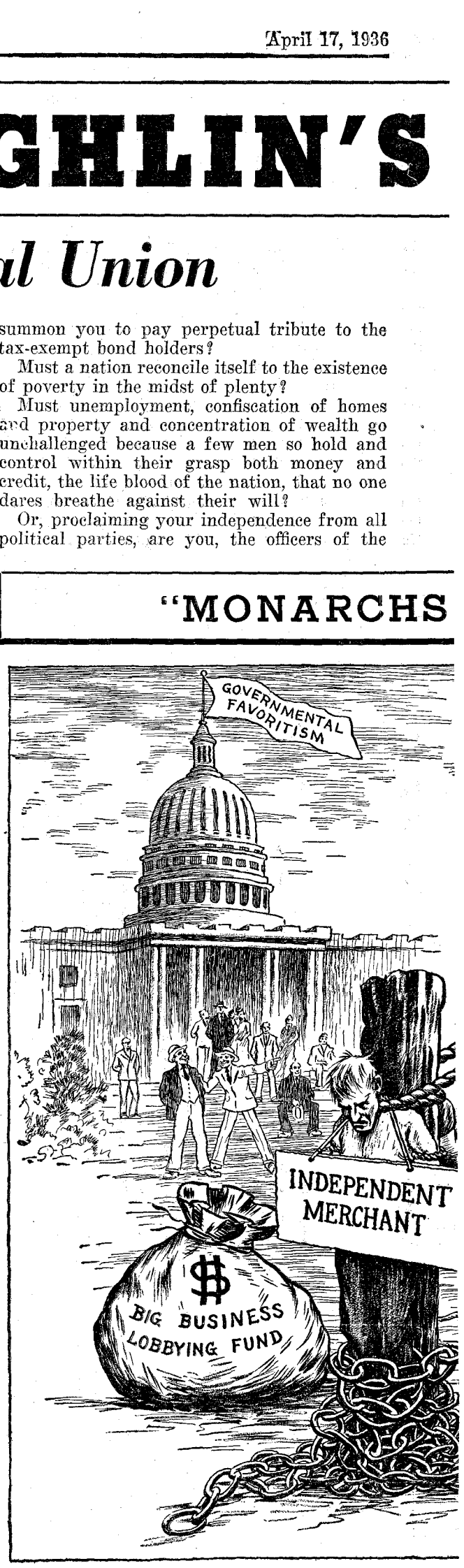
Must the factory whistle or the time clock summon you to pay perpetual tribute to the tax-exempt bond holders?

Must a nation reconcile itself to the existence of poverty in the midst of plenty?

Must unemployment, confiscation of homes and property and concentration of wealth go unchallenged because a few men so hold and control within their grasp both money and credit, the life blood of the nation, that no one dares breathe against their will?

Or, proclaiming your independence from all political parties, are you, the officers of the

"MONARCHS



"Garroted by

National Union, prepared to do battle for the financial emancipation of the American people?

You have not organized to nationalize industry. That is the objective of the extreme Socialists.

You have not organized to sustain the doctrine of licentious individualism. That is the program of the leaders of Republicanism.

You have not organized to alter the social or constitutional system of America by establishing bureaucracies, by instituting doles, by practicing destructionism, and by attempting to alleviate our national misery while preserving the worst financial abuses of modern capitalism. That is the philosophy of the New Deal experimenters.

But by means which are practical and through agencies which are available, you have organized to stand your ground against all of

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

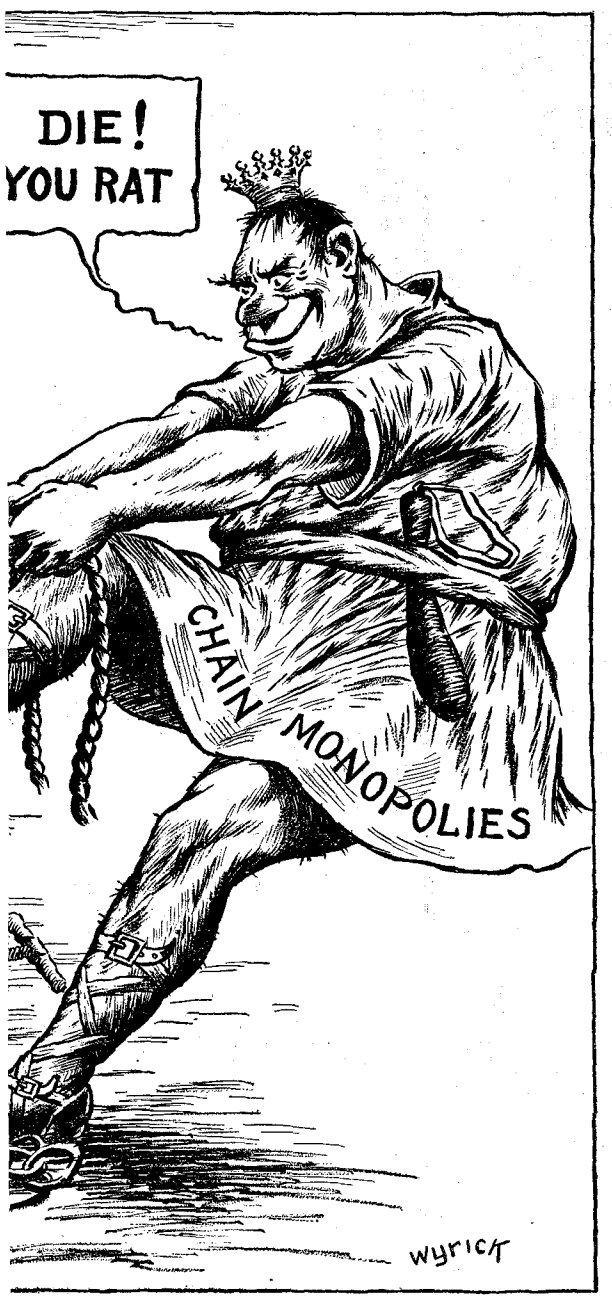
UNDAY RADIO TALK

them, to repulse them and finally, to overwhelm them on the battlefield of ballots.

Thus, for the first time in our generation, we are forcing a political battle on the money question. Under your leadership you will destroy the power of those who have usurped the sovereign right of coining, issuing and controlling our money, thereby controlling our laws, our property and our very destinies. That is our main objective, which must be realized before it is possible to pursue further the program of social justice.

How does the National Union propose to campaign in fighting this battle? Our plans are specific. We shall select candidates for Congress whose records or whose pledges assure

AMERICA"



—Drawn especially for Social Justice.

in Gang!"

us that they will do all within their power to drive the money changers from the temple. These candidates we will endorse independent of their political faith.

The stupidity of voting for a person because he waves the Republican black banner of reaction or because he flaunts the pink pennant of New Deal Democracy is outmoded.

We have had our fill of both of them!

Experience has long taught us that the mere changing from one political party to another is an inefficient method for obtaining social justice. I am not complaining about the Democratic party whose original principles intended to establish a government of the people, by the people and for the people. I am not complaining about the Republican party which was called into being to prevent the spread of physical slavery in America.

But I am complaining bitterly against a band of hypocrites who are parading under the name of Democrat—hypocrites who forget that the real Democrat, Andrew Jackson, in his day drove the money changers from the temple, and the pseudo-Democrat, Woodrow Wilson, brought them back again.

I am complaining indignantly against a group of plutocrats who are masquerading under the banner of the Republican party—plutocrats who have disgraced the pages of history written in the blood of Lincoln.

Both modern Democrat and Republican are usurpers. Both have wedded their destinies to those of the international banker. Both subscribe to the common policy of financial slavery for the inarticulate masses. Both are equally responsible for the chaos which exists in America today. Both must be toppled from the tottering thrones on which they sit, ruling by the grace of the divine Right of Kings.

Thus, for the time being, set aside all plans, if there be any, to establish a major party, a Third party or a Fourth party. Diligently set forth to destroy the present leadership and the current philosophy which dominate both major parties.

"Back to the traditions of Jackson and Lincoln!"

"Down with the upstarts, the servants of the money changers!"

Let this be your battle cry as you set forth to obtain and secure social justice for all.

Since 1912, especially, the Democrat and the Republican leaders have joined hands in protecting the private coinage and regulation of money. Perhaps their views differed on tariffs and child labor. Perhaps their philosophy varied on taxation and World Courtism. But always they were both the willing servants of high finance, manipulated by the hidden hand behind the throne.

Therefore, careless whether a candidate is a Democrat or a Republican, indifferent for the moment relative to his attitude on matters of minor import, the National Union is pledged to endorse only that candidate who will work in season and out of season to force Congress to coin and regulate all the money in this nation, despite the fanfare of grotesque opposition which the opponents noise through the puppet columns of their kept journals.

* * *

II

Let us clarify once and for all this matter of endorsing candidates for Congress.

It is being whispered abroad that the National Union plans to ride roughshod over Congressmen's well established labor and agricultural records and demand of them slavish and dictatorial adherence to the letter of a code of rules and regulations.

That false rumor must not be entertained in the minds of you ladies and gentlemen whose prerogative it is to endorse candidates for Congress.

Let me recall for you the counsel I broadcast two months ago. It is your primary duty to recognize the records of our friends already in Congress and to retain them there. The record of a job well done is better than any promise, however sincere, to do a good job. Thus the loyal friends of organized labor and the farmer, now in Congress, should know that the National Union will do everything in its power to retain them in office.

Therefore, I hereby instruct the congressional district officers, assembled today, to consider, first, the record of the member now in office. If his record is dominantly in harmony with the principles of social justice, the member of Congress should be accorded the endorsement of the National Union. His record is more reliable than any advertised pledge.

While we are determined to defeat those who are the enemies of social justice, we cannot afford to oppose those who, inspired by their own honest convictions, have defended the rights of the people in speech and by vote.

Therefore, I instruct the officers and delegates of the National Union assembled this afternoon to remember that the "well done job" of any Congressman entitles him not only to recognition but to endorsement. If you are in doubt of a Congressman's record, I repeat, it will be supplied to you by our central office. However, there shall be no compromise with the reactionary, none with the pussyfooter who hesitates for a moment on the essence of our program of driving the money changers from the temple. Rest assured, the National Union will take the initiative in doing justice to those worthy members of Congress, without requiring them to advertise three times in a newspaper.

Thus, if the incumbent Congressman and his record appeal favorably to you and to your elected assembly officers, write a registered letter to him expressing these thoughts:

"Honorable Mr. Doe:

"The National Union of the First District of Michigan will be pleased to endorse and support you for re-election because of your established record, which obviates any necessity of your publicly pledging to support the sixteen points of social justice.

"However, since it was impossible for you to record your will on the matter of insisting that Congress and Congress alone shall coin and regulate all of the money issued in the United States, and since to do so is in keeping with your oath of office and the Constitution of our nation, will you kindly give us your expression on this matter, which expression will be publicized to the members of the National Union in this district?

"Sincerely yours."

By adopting this policy, we shall be able to reward faithful service with the same patriotic fervor with which we castigate betrayal.

Thus, there will be but one request made of those Congressmen whom the National Union will endorse and support on the strength of their past record. They will be asked to acknowledge and accept the endorsement in writing. In their letter of acceptance they will be asked to state their conviction that it is their duty under the terms of their oath of office to support the Constitution, to do everything in their power to remove from the privately owned Federal Reserve System its prerogative of coining and regulating the value of money and to restore that prerogative to Congress where the Constitution explicitly places it.

That is not exacting a pledge. It is a request of each Congressman to state that he knows what his oath of office means and that he intends to translate that knowledge into patriotic action.

It is only fair to the members of the House of Representatives, where the leadership has consistently prevented any legislation designed to accomplish this end from coming to a vote, to give Congressmen this opportunity of getting on record regarding the root cause of the ills of farmer and laborer alike.

Relative to new candidates for Congress, there is only one rule to be followed. No new candidate can be eligible for endorsation unless he has publicly pledged his adherence to the sixteen principles of Social Justice. The fact that he is a Democrat, a Republican, a Progressive or an independent matters not.

You owe absolutely nothing to the Democratic or the Republican machines or parties. Both have ganged up against the people of the United States in constantly playing the banker's game. Therefore, select the new candidate whom you will endorse, not because he wears a Democrat or a Republican tag; not because he has been forced to swear allegiance to the platform of either party—platforms, by the way, not yet written—platforms never honored. But be sagacious enough by using the vehicle of those political parties to disrupt from within the evident pact which they have made with the Rothschilds, the Morgans, the Rockefellers, the Kuhn-Loebs, the Dawes, the Dillons, the Federal Reserve Bankers.

And finally, relative to both classifications of candidates—those who already are Congress-

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

A Message to the National Union—Continued

men and those who aspire to that office—the central office at Royal Oak reserves to itself the right to approve or disapprove of the endorsement given by a congressional district assembly of the National Union.

After you will have arrived at a decision to endorse for re-election a Congressman whose record merits your support or after you determine to endorse a new candidate, please instruct your district secretary to communicate with me by registered mail, detailing the reasons which motivated your judgment.

Whatever you do, religiously refrain from endorsing a candidate who is a Judas goat. In large slaughter houses it is customary to train a handsome looking animal to lead the lambs to slaughter. First, he is permitted to mingle with the victims. Then, at the proper moment, the gateway to death is opened. The favored goat is urged to enter, and the innocent sheep meekly and dumbly follow the leader. Of course, the betrayer of his own kind is permitted to pass by safely the keen edged knives. His duped followers are slaughtered one by one.

That is the animal which butchers call the Judas goat.

Need I tell you to be wary of fat bodies, of sleek wool and gracefully arched horns—horns that bespeak promises of power and fidelity, and yet which crown the head of a traitor? Follow the leadership of a candidate who is really your servant, your representative, not the secret representative of the exploiters of human misery, and in selecting him, hasten slowly.

* * *

III

Of paramount importance at your assembly is the election of honest, capable, soul free officers.

You have come to this convention with fixed prejudices, with predeterminations. In your midst, most likely, are politicians more anxious to carry away the pap of patronage, and more likely to hold out their hands to receive thirty pieces of silver, than to submit to carry the cross of sacrifice or grasp the nails of suffering identified with the National Union.

Recognize, therefore, the necessity of electing to office only those nominees who are willing to expend time and energy, for your welfare. Vote only for those men and women who are sincerely determined to keep clean the activities of the National Union.

This organization cannot function any more efficiently than will the president, the vice-president, the secretary and the treasurer whom you elect by ballot to be your congressional district officers. Although the instructions which you already possess are specific, your judgment, which is beyond the pale of instructions, will be the determining factor in winning this battle for financial liberty.

Officers of the National Union, perhaps you are displeased with the way that certain activities are conducted. So am I. Perhaps you are opinionated as for whom your vote should be cast. So am I. Perhaps you are bigoted as to the congressional candidate whom you are going to support. So am I. But that is why you have gathered in assembly. Every man is welcome to his opinion, to his convictions. But have you not assembled this afternoon to put on the table these opinions, convictions and prejudices, and, in a democratic manner, to come to a decision? Surely, you have. Thus, when the final ballot is cast, let there be unanimity.

When your meeting will have been dismissed, I trust that only one opinion, one judgment, one harmonious decision will remain upon the table. Let the others be filed with the spoiled ballots in the waste paper basket.

Although it is expedient to nominate and elect the congressional district officers this afternoon, I counsel you to proceed prudently. If necessary, and in such states where the primary elections will permit postponement, it is left entirely to the judgment either of the state supervisor or his deputy, acting under his instructions, or, in cases where neither are officiating, it is left to 51 per cent of the persons present at the assembly meeting to postpone the election of congressional district officers until some date not later than Sunday, April 26th.

Of course the endorsation of candidates for Congress will be postponed in all states and in all congressional districts where time permits or where specific instructions have been given otherwise.

But meanwhile spread the news constantly that every member of the National Union in your congressional district must take personal care to register with the proper civil authorities so that he will be able to vote at the primary elections. Spread the news far and wide that all units in the process of establishment, or about to be established, will have due representation at all future meetings of the congressional district assembly.

You ladies and gentlemen who are convened in official meeting this afternoon are dutifully bound to interest yourselves in the formation of new units. You are the crusaders, the banner bearers, the new leaven upon whom depends the future of America.

I am most serious in stating that our enemies and their servants will not permit this challenge which we are flinging in their faces today to go unanswered. They are so determined that, if necessary, they will scuttle the ship of democracy unless you stand guard constantly. They will attempt to establish a dictatorship, trampling down your liberties in the mire of slavery. They will propose legislation which will appeal to unanalytical minds. They will assuage your present economic wounds with the opiate of doles while working towards their end. They will not be dislodged from their usurped thrones without marshalling every force, every power, and employing every device and every subterfuge to entrap and ensnare you.

* * *

IV

It is by no coincidence that this day, Sunday, April 5th, was designated for the first official meeting of the officers of the National Union for Social Justice. In memory I turn back the pages of time more than 1900 years. This day is the anniversary of an event to be remembered long after the last sun shall set like a funeral pyre to commemorate the passing of the last babbling infant.

He Who had multiplied bread to feed the poor; He Whose hand had been lifted in benediction to cure the maimed; He Who had gone into the tomb of the dead to restore life, came riding upon an humble beast of burden into the city of Jerusalem. Perhaps there still echo down the corridors of time the loud hosannas with which He was greeted. Perhaps there still is remembered the festal scene enacted by those who hailed Him as king as they strewed the city streets with fronds of palm, the symbol of triumph.

But in the midst of those who rejoiced with Christ there stood the lean, leering Caiaphas, stroking his beard as he excogitated plans to destroy this upstart Who dared preach the brotherhood of man and the brotherhood of God.

The soul of Christ sensed the crucial moment that it was. Had He not spent three years endeavoring to convert these false leaders of the people? Yea, had He not spent sleepless nights in the desert shedding tears because of their obduracy?

Well did He know His own plans. Well did He know that the crisis must be faced. Thus, on this day of Palm Sunday, He had concluded definitely to cast the die on the morrow.

Monday of Holy Week! As usual Christ is found preaching in the portico of the temple.

Monday of Holy Week! Inside the temple doors Caiaphas and Annas, together with the traffickers in gold, to whom they had sublet this sovereign right, were engaged in clipping the coins of pilgrims; yea, occupied in merchandising the very victims of sacrifice to be used in the temple itself.

As Christ preached His gospel of *"love thy neighbor as thyself"*; as He expounded the meaning of *"whatsoever you do to the least of these, My little ones, you do unto Me"*, there sounded through the temple gates the jeers, the scoffs, the ridicule from the mouths of these exploiters of their own people.

Thus, turning sharply from the multitude of persons who were listening to Him; throwing back His manly shoulders to meet force with force; girding up His loins as He prepared to do battle, He seized a lash. The day for attempting to convert the money changers had passed. The hour for argumentation had ceased. Thus, striking right and left, toppling over their tables until the golden coins fell clinking to the marble floors, Christ actually drove the money changers from the temple!

When the last upstart had gone slinking to mingle with the crowd, there to defy Christ, the determined Master pointed to him and said: *"This is the house of God and thou hast made it a den of thieves."*

Monday of Holy Week! The anniversary of the first driving of the money changers from the temple!

Monday of Holy Week! And we in America, the house which God has blessed with golden fields of wheat, snowy fields of cotton, towering forests of pine and oak, princely mines of gold and silver and copper and iron—yea, the temple in which God has placed as servants the brilliant intelligences of scientists and engineers, the cunning hands of mechanics and the strong, capable souls of an oppressed agricultural class—this temple, too, has been made a den of thieves. The laborer has been deprived of his just hire. The farmer has suffered his home and his acres to be confiscated. The small merchant and industrialist have been forced to turn the key in store and factory. What, though Christ did multiply five loaves to feed five thousand, nineteen hundred years ago, has He not, through the processes of science and of faith, given to His brothers of this day and age the power to duplicate that miracle? And this power is withheld from us by those who have made of America a den of thieves as they sit in the temple clipping the coins of the realm!

Yea, tomorrow and Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday and Friday of this Holy Week they will plot against Christ because He struck at the heart of their exploitation. They will crucify Him between two thieves, Gesmas and Dismas.

History will be duplicated, my friends. It always has been. It always will be. The high priests of high finance whom you are about to drive from the temple of this nation will bear false witness against you, will charge you with stirring up the people, will appear before the courts of justice as did Annas and cry aloud: "We have a law!" a law invented by themselves to protect their own misdeeds. And eventually they will condemn you to death. They will scourge you with the lash of hunger. They will crown you with the thorns of worry. They will crucify you between the two modern thieves, the Democratic and the Republican parties, as they spit in your face and cry: "If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross! If thou be the brother of Christ, call upon Him!"

As usual, they have no king but Caesar.

But if they prate of having a law so do we. We have the law of Christ and of His brotherhood and the law of the Constitution. If they boast of having a king, so do we. We have a king Who is God the Father, and we have a King's Son Who is our brother—a Son Who showed us the example of how to drive the money changers from the temple. Therefore, carry on in the name of God, in the name of humanity whom He died to save, in the name of social justice, which is predicated upon that one commandment: *"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."*

Take up your cross and carry it. Bear the marks of the scourges of hunger, suffer the nails of persecution and exploitation to dig deep into your hands, be buried, if necessary, in the tomb of today by the criticism of paid propagandists. But be prepared for your Easter morn.

I know that the muse of history shall come to your tomb expecting to find there a corpse. I know that some angel shall say: *"He is risen. He is not here."* He has gone with the spirit of Christ to teach the gospel of peace, the gospel of plenty, the gospel of happiness to everyone who is willing to accept and abide by the first and greatest commandment of the new law: *"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart and thy neighbor as thyself."*

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

PRESS REVIEWS

Anti-Lobby or Anti-People?

"Every four years the American people are permitted to join in a political sham battle, finance the old shell game to make it interesting, become politically enthusiastic-mad at their seducers, and thus sublimate their natural desire to kick all the emblems of political derby day into oblivion. When the eleventh hour comes on the great day of the belligerent confetti and logogriphic battle, John Q. Public generally ambles to the polls to vote against somebody by voting for someone else he knows less about than his previous 'servant.'"

Since the American people are pretty generally wise now to their predicament and its cause, and are about to use a national lobby to get results, the rulers have introduced their hidden weapon of force, in a proposed law to curb the right of petition, free speech, free press, and peaceable assemblage. The bill sponsored by Howard S. Smith, Virginia Democrat—under the ridiculous guise of destroying the power and steel lobbies—is aimed, almost without attempt at concealment, at the people's national lobbies, which function through such organizations as the Townsend plan group and our own National Union for Social Justice.

As vigorous a condemnation of the Smith bill as SOCIAL JUSTICE itself could indite is here reproduced from no less a conservative and impeccable source than the Wall Street Journal:

"What is in the minds of Congressmen who support such measures as the Smith Anti-Lobbying Bill, H. R. 11663, which was favorably reported to the House on March 19? Have our representatives become so supersensitive to the possible effects of any close contact with the citizens who elect them that they do not wish any communication with the public mind whatsoever? . . . .

"Let us take a hypothetical case and see how this bill would work out. Congressman Jones has antagonized a group of citizens in his district by, let us say, opposing the control of furbearing animals in Alaska. Election time comes, and these men and women decide to band together and inform the voters in other parts of the district of this lapse on the part of Congressman Jones. To do this requires mailing; mailing costs money; contributions are raised.

"At this point the Smith Bill steps in. Is a receipt for an amount over ten dollars lost? If so, and another is not procurable, or if such a receipt is inadvertently not filed with the Clerk of the House, then the group of citizens becomes liable to a fine of $1,000 or imprisonment for a year.

"There are hundreds of such possibilities contained in the provisions of the Smith Bill. And it is highly improbable that Congressman Jones, the candidate the group opposes, will permit any oversights in connection with enforcing the measure.

"Administration of the bill might not be carried to ridiculous extremes. But the point of this and similar legislation is that it tends to drive the voter farther and farther from control of his own government. This tendency should be reversed; *the Smith Bill as it stands should be defeated.*"

◆ ◆ ◆

Both News Stories Cannot Be True

An Associated Press dispatch from San Pedro, Calif., quotes Mrs. Margaret Sanger, returning from a tour of the orient, as saying that Rabindranath Tagore, loved Indian poet, and Mahatma Gandhi, native leader, "told her in India that they favored birth control."

H. C. E. Zacharias, Ph. D., writing in The Echo (Buffalo) quotes liberally from the editor of Harijan, an Indian publication, of January 25th, in which the editor gives an account of Mrs. Sanger's interview with the mahatma.

"The Mahatma himself was adamant in his own philosophy 'that seeks self-realization through self-control.' Of course he readily agreed that 'there are hard cases: else birth-control enthusiasts would have no case.' But he insisted on distinguishing between *love* and *lust*. . . . . As for the cases of nervous breakdown as a result of self-control, which Mrs. Sanger cited, Mr. Gandhi bluntly told her: 'Your evidence is all based on examination of imbeciles. Your conclusions are not drawn from the practice of healthy-minded people. The people you take for examples have not lived a life of even tolerable continence.'

"Mrs. Sanger's temper rose. 'Do you think it possible,' she asked him, 'for two people who are in love, who are happy together, to regulate their sex relationship—say once every two years—when they wanted a child? Do you think it possible?'

" 'I had the honor of doing that very thing,' replied the Mahatma simply, 'and I am not the only one.'

"The moral grandeur of this Hindu facing the neurotic immorality of this allegedly Christian woman is not a picture that any occidental can contemplate without poignant searchings of heart."

◆ ◆ ◆

World Press Scores New Jersey Justice

American justice as illustrated in the Hauptmann case was the subject of columns of criticism in the European press, according to the Associated Press.

The London Daily Telegraph says "American authorities played cat and mouse" with the murderer of the Lindbergh baby in delaying his execution.

The Neue Freie Presse of Vienna declared:

"One of the oldest points of common law among many peoples is that an execution, if delayed just before its fulfilment, should not take place."

Die Stunde (Vienna) said editorially: "The way in which they played with the life of this man was a world scandal. It occupied for the American public the same position as a boxing match. This is one of the saddest chapters in American justice and one of the most frightful."

The French press is reported to have divided its front pages between the execution of Hauptmann and European diplomatic activity. Writing in Figaro, Andre Maurois called the repeated stays "judicial inquisition," saying that "an innocent or guilty man has the right to die only once."

Says the Christian Science Monitor:

"Historians of the future can hardly be blamed if they record some very peculiar impressions of this age.

"The state of New Jersey has played with the life of Bruno Richard Hauptmann like a cat with a mouse. Whatever a man's crime, there is no excuse for indecent uncertainty and inhuman cruelty, putting him virtually into the electric chair one day, taking him out the next. . . . .

"For the worst of this fantastic business, this frenetic farce, is the disrepute it puts upon justice in Jersey, indeed in the United States, for the whole country must bear part of the blame."

It is time Americans showed their determination to end such orgies of sensationalism. It is time for a rebuke to officials and press who indulge in it. A beginning might be made in individual thinking—where the cruel curiosity that makes such abuses possible has its beginning.

Syracuse (N. Y.) Business and Labor Review

"The spectacle of Representative John J. O'Connor and his hot-blooded attack on Father Coughlin because of the latter's criticism of O'Connor in his dealing with the Frazier-Lemke bill, has a deeper significance than the mere controversy over the measure would indicate. . . . . Father Coughlin was justified in his criticism of O'Connor for his refusal to allow a bill—a petition of a suffering people—to be released from a committee. . . . . The question arises, to what point can a Christian advance in his political ambition and interests where things will clash with his faith and cause him to stand ready to kick or otherwise punish a servant of God who would attempt to interfere or criticise him?

"There is a notable contrast between the attitude of former Governor Smith and Representative O'Connor. The former had been as severely criticised by Father Coughlin as was O'Connor, but Mr. Smith, while he resented the attack, did so in a manner that detracted not one iota from his well-established reputation as a true Christian gentleman.

"We wonder if, in the event Father Coughlin were brought before O'Connor's great Democratic tribunal, O'Connor's voice would not be heard among the rabble shouting, 'Crucify him.' We are constrained to believe that politics would again outweigh Christian faith."

◆ ◆ ◆

"Inflation" versus "Honest Money"

"The Frazier-Lemke farm mortgage refinancing bill is the principal inflation measure now before congress. . . . Apparently, however, this inflation bill is not popular with the rank and file of people in the nation. Last week the American Institute of Public Opinion took a poll on public sentiment toward inflation. Nowhere was a favorable opinion expressed."

We do not pick out the Republican Watertown Daily Times because it is the most powerful press in northern New York—nor for its reputed spiritual alliance with the Northern New York Trust Co., a subsidiary of the Marine Trust of Buffalo, N. Y.—but rather because the logic of this item is so typical of the misrepresentation prevalent in the banker-controlled press. It is typical, too, of the loose thinking throughout the nation by the opponents of our program for social justice.

Cannot the Watertown editor see, cannot anyone of ordinary intelligence understand, that every member of the National Union for Social Justice voted against "inflation" in that American Institute poll? We are as vigorously opposed to "inflation" as are the gold money crowd. The point is that the Frazier-Lemke bill's money program is not **inflation.** Miscalling something "inflation" and then broadcasting a national poll on sentiment against inflation is not honest, nor is it playing fair with the American people.

To have been honest the American Institute should have posed the question: "Are you in favor of an honest money system?" or "Do you favor the Constitutional coinage of money?" Calling the gold standard "sound money" and Constitutional coinage "unsound" is equally fallacious and misleading. By such tactics the international bankers have confused the public thinking on money questions for generations. That day is over and the "interests" are beginning to realize that it is.

The National Union for Social Justice charges that the present (and future) course of the Federal Reserve system is not only "inflationary" but actually illegal. Private coinage of money is "unsound." Constitutional money—honest money—are the accurate words to use in connection with the Frazier-Lemke bill's finance features; and the big bankers dare not use them for fear the people will understand.

◆ ◆ ◆

Praise from Religious Press

—From Our Sunday Visitor.

"It is unusual to see a newspaper without a single advertisement. More unusual is it to find a paper devoted exclusively to obtaining Christian Social Justice. The first editions of Father Coughlin's newspaper 'SOCIAL JUSTICE' are remarkable documents. They are well-arranged, well-illustrated, and present the philosophy of Social Justice in readable language. Father Coughlin has contributed generously to the first numbers, despite the multitudinous demands that must be made on his time. It is amazing that one man is able to do so much while apparently retaining inexhaustible vigor and originality. Every paragraph shows signs of the radio priest's influence if not actual direction. We wonder if he can keep it up under the regular compulsion of meeting weekly deadlines. If he can, we predict a phenomenal circulation for a paper that has already established a world record for a first edition.

"In format and appearance 'SOCIAL JUSTICE' resembles very closely the make-up of OUR SUNDAY VISITOR. It is about the same size. It has a front page column of comment captioned 'Eyes and Ears.' It possesses an editorial page written by Father Coughlin. It has a section devoted to world news 'The Week In The World.' It contains a Youth page. Articles are attractively grouped and set off with cartoon 'breaks.' There is a page of 'National Union News.' In addition it contains Father Coughlin's weekly radio address, a 'mail-box' page, and a back sheet devoted to Father Coughlin's 'Weekly Letter.'"

◆ ◆ ◆

From the New English Weekly

"The New Coughlin. Borah and Tinkham have both served the American people during the past few weeks, but the main history of the United States since January 4 has been made in Father Coughlin's weekly broadcasts. . . . Coughlin has come to accuracy. His opinions are not simple emotion; not mere naive indignation. No party and no gang of boodlers that tries to ignore these weekly speeches will be loved by the voters this autumn.

"There is almost nothing simpler than politics and economics when men want to do right.

"Coughlin's voice is clearer than Roosevelt's because he has to think only of truth, whereas Mr. Roosevelt is ever a little preoccupied with 'how many votes will it catch? Will Mr. Farley, will the Strauss-Morgenthau ambience? *Und so weiter.* . . . The debt to Coughlin is already a debt not merely for an enormous act of popular education but an enormous act of education of the so-called 'educated classes.'

"Coughlin has caused national legislation. That is a matter of record, but he is out ahead of still better legislation and what is more he has succeeded in telling almost the whole people what the petted and stuffy Universities have for seventy years miserably failed to teach even their special students."

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

AAA Payments Disclose National Scandal

California Bank Is Paid Not to Grow Wheat; Data Is Yielded Under Pressure From Senate

By the Farm Editor

Washington, D. C.—Disclosures of Triple A crop destruction benefits running into millions — under circumstances that approach the magnitude of a national scandal—were exacted from the administration's secretary of agriculture during the last week.

The amazing revelation that a Hawaiian sugar producer and a Puerto Rican sugar producer can walk into the Treasury of the United States for million dollar checks will not be too graciously received by American farmers.

Nor will those farmers long forget that a million dollars in taxpayers' money already has gone to a Florida cane sugar producer; that a single Florida tobacco grower was paid $41,450; that an Arkansas farmer was paid $199,000 for not producing cotton.

Nor can the country "understand" how the English-owned corporation of Oscar Johnson, head of the cotton pool and a high executive in the Department of Agriculture, could receive $177,947 for "not growing cotton on a Mississippi plantation" or a California banker earn $23,845 "for not growing wheat!"

The People Want to Know!

During the last ten days the press of the nation has given considerable publicity to the charges of Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg of Michigan respecting the administration of the AAA, and his demand for data about benefit payments. Senator Vandenberg's resolution called for information on all payments of $10,000 or more.

Defenders of the administration immediately objected that such an investigation would "take at least six months for the compilation of the figures"; and Henry Wallace, secretary of agriculture, demurred on the ground that the machinery for sending out checks, and other details of getting the new Triple A into operation, would "be hopelessly disarranged."

The Senate, however, referred the Vandenberg resolution to its committee on Agriculture and Forestry headed by Senator Ellison D. Smith of South Carolina. This committee resolved to go the Michigan senator one better and to ask the agricultural secretary for data concerning all benefit payments over $1,000. Senator Smith and his committee also demanded a statement of the land, crops and cattle involved in payments under the AAA recently invalidated by the supreme court.

Force Administration Hand

Furthermore the committee, on Saturday, April 4th, authorized Chairman Smith to report out the resolution on the following Monday—thereby calling the bluff of the Secretary of Agriculture.

On Monday morning, before the committee had an opportunity to meet and formulate its report to the Senate, the secretary of agriculture did an "about face" rare in political history. He released the very data demanded in the original resolution. Furthermore he personally told Chairman Smith that, due to the system of filing, it is "about as easy" to segregate the payments of $1,000 as those above $10,000.

Senator Vandenberg suggested that he would like to question the allegation that checks as high as $200,000 went forth from the Treasury of the United States under the crop curtailment program.

On April 6 Secretary Wallace revealed that the federal government had paid $1,022,037 to one Hawaiian sugar company. The secretary also disclosed that he had paid a Florida sugar company $1,067,666. Down in Puerto Rico there is a sugar producer who received $961,064. Thus in three checks practically 3-million dollars was given three individuals "for not growing sugar."

A Farmer Gets $199,700

Arkansas heads the list with a benefit payment of $199,700 for one individual for not growing cotton. The fact that the genial majority leader of the United States Senate, the Honorable Joseph T. Robinson, happens to come from Arkansas probably has nothing to do with a single check for $199,000 paid out of the treasury to an Arkansas farmer who didn't produce cotton.

Oscar Johnson, in whose hands rests six million bales of cotton administred on behalf of the Commodity Credit Corporation, in private life is the manager of a great English owned plantation in Mississippi. That corporation, according to the letter of the Secretary of Agriculture to Senator Smith, disclosed a payment of $177,947 to Mr. Johnson's employers.

The largest corn-hog payment was not made in Iowa or Kansas but rather out in California where one producer was paid $157,000 for not producing hogs. California likewise led in the largest payment for not growing rice—a single check for $63,768. California won another first prize—this time it was wheat—a single check for $23,845 to the account of a California bank for not growing wheat!

Old Theory of Scarcity

What has happened in Washington is simply this: Since the New Deal started, the word has gone out that the poor farmer was unable to receive the cost of production for his produce because the nation was suffering from a surplus of agricultural production. Accordingly, under the original AAA, the farmer made contracts with his government to reduce the acreage of cultivated crops and by reason of his co-operation with the new national policy of crop destruction, he was to receive benefit payments proportionate to that destruction. Thus, the curse of overproduction would be destroyed and the old law of supply and demand would operate, with a consequent rise in farm prices.

When the day of reckoning came, when a United States Senator demanded information concerning the amount of benefits paid to certain large producers the country witnessed the tragic picture of a cabinet officer denying the availability of the facts except after long and laborious calculations which would tie up the machinery of the Department of Agriculture. Yes, even wreck the operation of the new Triple A!

When, however, it became evident that the people were determined to have such information then it took the secretary of agriculture less than 24 hours to show that 46 cotton farmers alone had received checks of over $10,000, that three cane sugar producers had received checks totaling practically $3,000,000.

What brought about this amazing reversal bordering upon downright deceit?

Press for Seed Loans

Nearly six weeks ago President Roosevelt vetoed the $50-million Feed and Seed Loan Bill, on the theory that a $30-million appropriation was adequate.

February starts the planting season in the southernmost counties of the country. March extends that season northward. The seed loan follows springtime till it reaches the wheat fields of the Dakotas. April is well upon us and from all over the nation farmers are protesting the $30-million set aside out of relief funds for seed loans is not being made available.

In the great drouth areas, where 150,000 farm families are on relief, not a dollar was available as a seed loan. In the resettlement projects such loans would ultimately take these drouth sufferers off relief.

On Saturday, April 4th, it was decided by the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry to recommend passage of the original Farm and Seed Loan, the veto of the president notwithstanding.

Frazier-Lemke Farm Bill: Two Viewpoints

The following letter was addressed to a member of Unit No. 3, 15th Congressional District, National Union for Social Justice, in response to a letter to John D. Dingell, commending the Michigan congressman for his promptness in signing the petition to release the Frazier-Lemke Bill from committee, for a vote before the House.

"A Down-right Fake!"

Dear Mr. ————:

"I am very sorry I could not reply to your letter of March 3rd at an earlier date. I have been completely swamped and unable to 'get caught up.'

"Let me say that insofar as the Patman Bill is concerned, I was for it all the way through. Unfortunately, we could not put it across. I was basically even more interested in the immediate cash payment of the Bonus but I felt in doing so we, as tax-payers, were not supposed to pay a bonus to the bankers through the issuance of bonds.

"*With reference to the Frazier-Lemke Bill, I would say it is a down-right fake. It is absolutely impossible.* The bill will impair the equities of millions of policy-holders if it does not destroy them in their entirety. I have made a study of the Frazier-Lemke Bill. *I have signed the petition for only one purpose and that is to kill it at the earliest possible date. Please take my word for it. It is an iniquitous measure.*

"Let me point out that the Bill provides for the issuance of $25 per capita in new currency. That will mean $3,250,000 to be issued in a revolving loan fund. This fund will be used to refinance about $8,000,000,000 in farm mortgages. No means test will be applied. In other words it will not make any difference whether you are a farmer in need of low interest refinancing or not. All you need to be is a farmer to have your 6 per cent mortgage refinanced on a basis of one and one-half per cent. Not all farm mortgages are held by banks and insurance companies. Many of these are held by people who purchased the mortgage from, and on the advice of, their bankers.

"I do not believe that if the people understood the Frazier-Lemke Bill they would support it for one moment. In fact it is because it is a bit of freak legislation and unfair, that this liberal Congress will not pass it. You would not have to apply any pressure if this Bill was any good.

"Let me add that the Bill provides that any man who has lost his farm, or has given it up for any cause or reason as far back as 1921 can obtain the money from the federal government and reposes such farm or any portion thereof, or any farm of like character and value which means that if Farmer Brown gave up his farm in 1921 to have a lot of fun in the city and wants now to recover this farm which you bought and improved, he could obtain the money from the federal government and drive you off the premises. Of course, the Frazier-Lemke adherents say that you would have to be willing to get off the premises, but that is not stated in the bill.

"I have argued this matter with representatives of the farm group, with Louis Ward and Collins representing Father Coughlin, and with Mr. E. C. Kennedy of the Farmer's Union and with Mr. Lemke, author of the Bill. While I consider myself a liberal and reasonably open-minded person, and subject to conviction, these people have not produced one argument to change my opinion.

"Another thing, let these loyal advocates of the Frazier-Lemke Bill speak out for the poor home-owner in the city. I have never yet seen a farmer who starved to death as long as he could produce anything on his mud, but I have actually seen people who starved to death and that in our own city of Detroit.

"Trusting I have made my position clear, I subscribe myself.

"Cordially and Sincerely yours,

"JOHN D. DINGELL."

Bondage of Agriculture

To the Editor:

As an agricultural son of this nation, I desire to ask the honorable congressmen who are supposed to represent us in Washington, how long shall the agricultural estate of this country be in bondage? What rights are ours as to the agricultural pursuit of life, liberty and happiness in a land that is fruitful and abundant in productivity and natural resources?

Our homes are bonded, mortgaged, indebted; our crops are destroyed for a paltry dole; our children are denied the conveniences and advantages of civilization —and I don't mean the Morganian conception of civilization. The ever-increasing phantom of taxation steadily bears down on us.

If the congressmen have the moral courage to recognize facts, tell us if you please, Mr. Congressman, how national prosperity shall be purchased by coast-to-coast grasshopper spending merriment. When shall adequate homes be built to replace the dilapidated dwellings we are asked to remain in—as if the city folk were the only citizens living in slum atmospheres!

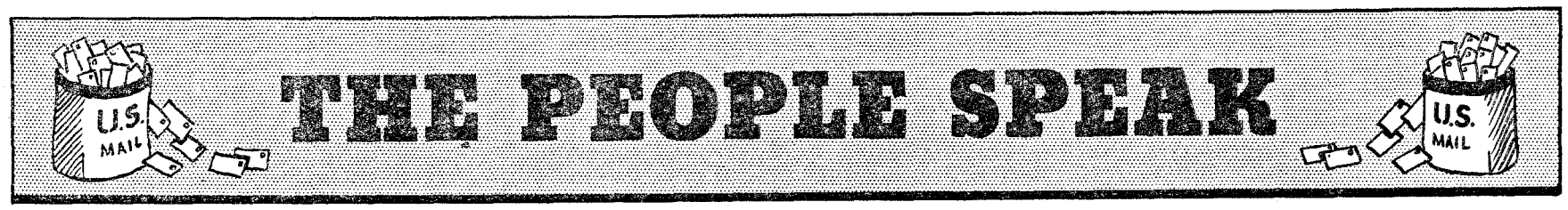
Why such a visionless government? Why such distortion of justice that billions of dollars in agricultural lands are mortgaged in the hands of large insurance companies, agricultural investment "syndicates and trusts"? We pride ourselves with advancement from the feudal landlords, but where does the advancement come in when the same practices are countenanced?

The silent voices of the sons and daughters of farmers throughout America are waiting for your aid. The answer lies and rests with you, Mr. Congressman and Mr. Senator, through the nationally known and recognized bill for farm freedom and restitution, namely the FRAZIER-LEMKE BILL.

You, gentlemen of congress, represent the highest legislative tribunal of any known democracy. Will you permit your eyes to be blinded by party pride and your hearts hardened by financial domination? Will you give us Democratic Freedom or shall we expect Democratic Death?

Georgetown, Minn. **T. T. TEIGEN**

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED



An Announcement

This page is yours. As the people speak, their voice will have a hearing in this forum. Anonymous communications cannot be considered. All letters must be signed with the name and address of their writers, as evidence of good faith. However, when so requested, the confidence of writers will be respected and their names not printed with their letter.

They Put Party First

To the Editor: The writer wishes to congratulate you on your very fair attitude by printing the various "anti-Coughlin" letters in the issue of March 27th. Without question, all of the "anti" letters have been written by otherwise sincere citizens. It is unfortunate to have so many people under the misapprehension that the program of Social Justice is a movement, copyrighted by the Democratic party, simply because Father Coughlin assumed President Roosevelt to be sincere when he promised to drive the money changers from the temple and made the statement "Roosevelt or Ruin." It appears, from the general tone of these letters, all of these correspondents have been or still are in accord with the sixteen principles, are, however, party Democrats first, last and all the time and forget the very principles laid down in same. Unless a movement of this kind is non-political and non-sectarian, ignoring party politics and its un-American accepted standard of political spoils, it is doomed from the beginning. The writer, nominally a Republican and not of the faith of Father Coughlin, firmly believes that the National Union for Social Justice has no place for people who will forsake its principles for the sake of political expediency.

Cleveland, Ohio —**Friend of Justice**

◆ ◆ ◆

Critics Evade Issues

To the Editor: After reading the letters on "The People Speak" page in the March 27th issue of your paper, I suggest that you run a series of cartoons or funny jokes on this page. They would be much more instructive than the letters contained in that issue. In all the criticism on this page, no one explained why Father Coughlin is wrong on his sixteen principles. It is easy to make criticisms, but to come out with something better—that is where brains count, and it requires brains to carry on the work that Father Coughlin is doing. You don't hear him making statements today and taking them back tomorrow. Just because Roosevelt put across a few good measures, these critics would have us sit back and applaud every act of his whether for our good or not. Judging from the letter signed "O. J. K." it would seem that we now have twelve million and one persons with 12-year-old minds.

Orchard Park, N. J. —**D. I. R.**

◆ ◆ ◆

Answers Still Good

Dear Father Coughlin: I am receiving your paper SOCIAL JUSTICE. It is the greatest eye-opener the American people have ever had. I am doing all I can in my humble way to spread social justice. The truth should be and must be brought to every home in America. Therefore, your paper should be in every home in the world. On the page "The People Speak" in your paper I note how some people criticize you for fighting their battles. If these people will turn back the pages in our history more than 1900 years, they will find that the answer that you are giving the people of today, and the answers that were given to people more than 1900 years ago, are not dissimilar.

Stevens Point, Wis. —**E. F. Jasman**

◆ ◆ ◆

"Cellmate" Volunteers

Dear Father Coughlin: Four times I wrote you that "I'd stick" and I shall. In jail or out, I stand for our sixteen principles. America is in far more danger today than in 1861—from those who have less shame than Judas, for he at least had the courage to hang himself. It was the least he could do. The active and supported recognition of our sixteen principles is the only thing that can save America. Father Coughlin, let me assure you that you may have a Protestant cellmate. You'll find many letters from me in your files. Should the National Union for Social Justice ever be investigated a la Townsend, please put my file on top—I would welcome investigation.

—**George Mason Chaffee**

New York, New York.

◆ ◆ ◆

Cites Chain Evil

To the Editor: The writer has been a member of the National Union for Social Justice since it was organized. I travel the state, calling upon independent business, as a member of the staff of a leading trade journal.

I find over half of the trade is going to organized greed and its chain store and mail order corporations. All of the profit on this vast amount of trade leaves the state, making it poor indeed. I was pleased to hear Father Coughlin in his recent broadcast attack this evil.

Our object is to show the consumer what organized greed is doing to him. Also to show him he has the power in his hands to destroy these monsters by refusing to buy from them. I trust you can again discuss this vital thought in your paper. It will do a wonderful amount of good.

Lakeview, Mich. —**E. B. Stebbins**

[Editor's Note: A discussion of chain store legislation appears elsewhere in today's issue of SOCIAL JUSTICE.]

◆ ◆ ◆

Time to Act

To the Editor: SOCIAL JUSTICE, Vol. 1, No. 1, has been delivered to my address and after reading and rereading every article it contains from cover to cover, I can only wish that it were in every home in America.

Father Coughlin's weekly letter on Page 16, "Financial Fascism," is so plain and understandable that it should put a fighting spirit in the hearts of every honest man, woman and child. I say "child" because it is so plain any child able to read can understand. Those of you who have read this article, go back and read it over again and if you feel you have any love for humanity, the common people of this great nation, forget you ever knew the word "parties" and center all your thoughts on the one thing—to help Father Coughlin with all your might and strength to drive the money changers from the temple before it is too late.

Too many of us are not taking this matter seriously enough. Remember this one thing: unless we elect Congressmen in November, regardless of politics, who we know will fight for Social Justice and Father Coughlin's principles, we are going to be left holding the empty bag. Every honest and interested American citizen should join the National Union and have an active part in this movement. The time has come to act.

Lima, Ohio —**E. O. May**

◆ ◆ ◆

In the People's Interest

To the Editor: I have always been an admirer of Father Coughlin and always will be because he is the only man in the whole country with courage to fight for the things he thinks are right and attack the things he thinks are wrong. The patronage Father Coughlin receives is from the laborer, farmer and the poor, not from the political machines or large corporations. In this country there are cowards in Congress and different parts of the country who enjoy stabbing Father Coughlin behind his back, instead of debating with him in public on any subject. Why? Because Father Coughlin would make these men look silly in the eyes of the people.

Bradley Beach, N. J. —**D. L. R.**

◆ ◆ ◆

For Minimum Wage

To the Editor: In common with many of my friends, I am wondering if your newspaper will be open to suggestions or will but publish only the pen product of your staff and those who agree with you. In the event it is conducted on a wide-gauge policy, I can conceive of its becoming the greatest power for progress and betterment ever established on this continent. Never in the history of the American nation have we stood in such dire need of a national newspaper that will discuss, in the open, facts and figures, ways and means—a forum in which our affairs, as citizens of a democracy, can be evaluated from every standpoint and angle.

I have spent my lifetime in the publishing business and have seen it transformed from a high standard of conscientious public service to become a big business—conducted with the one object of making the cash register bell ring.

I sincerely and earnestly hope that you will allow me to bring home to your millions of readers what I believe to be the most important phase of our national life today: To discover a way to compel a minimum wage for men and women throughout the length and breadth of this glorious land!

I appeal to the National Union for Social Justice to make its basic principle the establishment of a minimum wage. Instead of taking land out of cultivation, killing hogs and cattle, decreasing production, let us encourage in every way possible the increase of every good thing that God has bestowed upon us.

We have in every community the potential market for every good thing that this nation can produce. At least 20 million of our fellow creatures are deprived of everything in life worth while by low wages. Give these wage earners $5 or $10 per week more pay and the increased consumption of meat, vegetables, fruit, grain, etc., would solve the farm problem and a good many of our financial problems.

Little Britain, N. Y. —**Tom Pendell**

◆ ◆ ◆

Flood Victim Writes

To the Editor: I am writing this from Hartford where we have gone through the worst flood in our history. On this, the sixth night after the Connecticut river reached flood stage, I am writing by candle light as there is still no electric current. Following is a graphic summary of conditions in our fair city right now:

I am a veteran with a wife and three minor children to support and have been vainly trying since last August to secure work through PWA, WPA, or what have you. At this very moment there are over 6,500 veterans alone, registered at state headquarters, who are without work and eager to help in cleaning up and doing all we can to bring things back to normalcy as the flood waters subside. Many other thousands registered on relief rolls want to help.

Now what is this city doing for us? CCC workers are brought in from all parts of the state to clean up things. Instead of deputizing able-bodied citizens and ex-service men to assist in maintaining order (and paying them a fair wage for their services) national guardsmen are policing our streets. Boy Scouts of from 12 to 15 are helping to direct traffic. The only ex-service men doing any work are doing so as *volunteers* and, of course, get no pay therefrom.

Myself and thousands of willing workers are told that, due to red tape and orders from Washington to cut down the numbers on PWA, there is no immediate hope for help for us.

Yours for Social Justice for all in this misgoverned land of ours.

Hartford, Conn. —**L. M. B.**

Suggests Hearers Act

To the Editor: I wonder how many of us listen to the broadcasts of Father Coughlin each Sunday afternoon and say, "that's right, I hope he succeeds in putting the money changers out of the temple," or possibly regard it as just another program of entertainment.

Do we ever consider how much time and energy are required to gather and arrange the material for these broadcasts? Do we ever think of the courage it requires for one to stand before a microphone each Sunday, year after year, and denounce graft in high places?

Do you think that Father Coughlin derives any pleasure from delving into the records of selfish corporations and crooked public officials in order that he may present the results of his research to us each Sunday? Surely not. Love of right prompts him to attack the selfish interests in behalf of the people. Then in the name of Him who gives Father Coughlin the strength and courage to carry on, can we not have courage and energy enough to find our local unit and by giving our help and encouragement to other members, assist those who are trying to help us.

Kansas City, Mo. —**Fred Wamsley**

◆ ◆ ◆

Canada Ready to Follow

To the Editor: Congratulations and appreciation of your new publication. Your efforts in behalf of really sound money are of vital interest to us. When the United States is ready to lead the way, we will be the first to follow. We expect that our government will soon own the majority of stock in the Bank of Canada and be in a position to remedy the present money abuse.

Mr. J. C. MacCorkindale, barrister, has pointed out to us that the $100-million of gold that Canada produces yearly is shipped to the Bank of England in exchange for foreign cheques, instead of being retained as the basis of $250-million of much needed currency.

With this money we could do something to liquidate our oppressive debts and deficits, instead of sinking deeper into the "slough of despond".

Toronto, Canada. —**C. L.**

◆ ◆ ◆

The Worker's Last Chance

To the Editor: Just a few questions to H. W. of Newcastle, Indiana, whose letter of staunch support for President Roosevelt was published in SOCIAL JUSTICE, March 27, 1936. I would have Mr. H. W. ponder this picture:

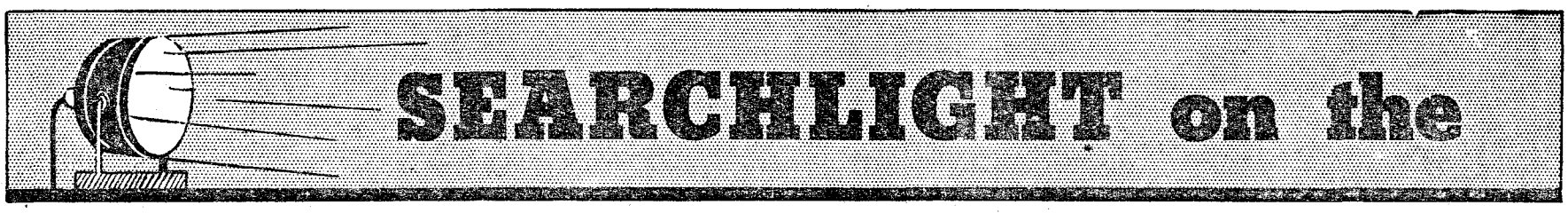
In this industrial center of about 35,000, organization among workers, if discovered, is tantamount to dismissal. The leading industry pays 40c an hour, 40 hours a week—$16, working full time. A house worthy of the name ranges from $22.50 to $30 rent per month. Coal costs $6 to $7.95 a ton; a medium suit of clothes costs $25; food for the average family of four costs $6 to $7 a week and $300 will not buy a used car, of any make, three years old. To whom, I ask this man, do we turn for aid? And what has happened to Mr. Roosevelt's protection for organization among workers? And what, may I ask, caused Mr. Roosevelt to turn back after a good start on his pledge, "I'll lead."

My home was confiscated in 1931, and with it went possibly all hope for further worldly possessions. I supported Mr. Roosevelt also. To whom do I look for guidance? To our Social Justice! I believe that in the ranks of this new organization are honest men, free from the smut and smudge of both political parties, who will be hunted out, nominated and elected Senators and Representatives who will legislate for the people.

From this group of men, possibly in 1940, our national leader will be chosen. To me it seems the industrial worker's last chance. Very much do I hope he will not fumble it.

Mansfield, Ohio —**A. H. A.**

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED



Economic Illiteracy---A Serious Menace

THE late Thomas A. Edison is reported to have said that America is a nation of "appalling economic illiteracy." We wonder if the illustrious Mr. Edison referred to the ordinary citizenry who have never been classed as experts, or whether he rightfully referred to the highly paid economists who appear to be as the Hon. Robert L. Owen, former chairman of the Banking and Currency Committee of the United States, stated: "walking encyclopedias of undigested misinformation."

Dr. H. Parker Willis, professor of banking at Columbia University, former secretary of the Federal Reserve Board and director of research and consulting economist for the Federal Reserve Board from 1918 to 1922, at a recent address to a School of Politics meeting at the Woman's National Republican Club, said:

"The United States treasury has more than $12-billion in gold which it does not use and will not allow private persons to possess.

"If foreign trade should continue as it has during the last three years, there would be little of it at the end of the next three.

"If we should continue to settle for what we send abroad in gold, as we have been doing, we shall collect during the next three years another $3-billion in gold, and we shall practically strip bare those foreign treasuries and banks that still have some gold which they can spare.

Gold Basis Restored

"In order to make progress toward a sound situation we need, in short, to take the step ourselves of establishing a basis of currency by which we are determined to abide. As to this there has never been any time when we could not resort to such a method.

"Even today I think there would be no reasonable doubt of ability on the part of the government to maintain a so-called stable sound currency if it were willing to throw off political hesitation and announce its determination."

Though he is professor of banking at Columbia University, Dr. Willis does not know that the United States Treasury merely took physical management of some $8.5-billions of gold under the Gold Bill of January 30, 1934. In taking custodianship, it gave to the privately owned Federal Reserve Banks gold certificates to the amount of $20.67 for each ounce of gold taken. These gold certificates are demand receipts for gold. The Federal Reserve Banks can obtain gold in any quantity upon demand.

Stabilization Fund

A few weeks ago, Mr. Henry Morganthau, secretary of the treasury, stated that the $2,800,000,000 free gold had now dwindled to slightly over 400 millions. When the price of gold was raised from $20.67 to $35 per ounce, the $2,800,000,000 was the amount of the commodity gold for which the treasury did not issue gold certificates to those who turned gold into the possession of the treasury.

How Derived

To remove misunderstanding, the details of how $2,800,000,000 free gold originated, are given:

There were approximately 195,394 ounces of gold within the United States on January 30, 1934. At $20.67 per ounce, the total price tag on the entire block of gold was approximately $4,038,000,000.

When the official currency price of gold was declared to be $35.00 per ounce, the difference between $20.67 and $35.00, or $14.33 per ounce on the entire gold stock within the nation, amounted to approximately $2,800,000,000. This $2,800,000,000 was a profit which the United States Government took. The repricing procedure was the same as a merchandiser who buys shoes at $3.00 a pair and puts a price tag of $6.00 a pair on them. He will have a profit of $3.00 a pair when he actually makes a sale of the shoes.

In this case, the government was dealing with a commodity used as money—gold. When it changed the official currency price of gold from $20.67 to $35.00 per ounce, it realized a profit amounting to approximately $2,800,000,000.

The day the transaction was completed, the Federal Reserve Banks actually took only bookkeeping credits in exchange for the gold they surrendered, but they were given full assurance that they would ultimately be given gold certificates to the amount of $20.67 for each ounce of gold turned over to the government. Within very recent weeks gold certificates have been given to the Federal Reserve Banks in lieu of their bookkeeping credits.

The Gold Certificates

The new gold certificates turned over to the Federal Reserve Banks bear on their face the following:

"This is to certify that there is on deposit in the Treasury of the United States of America - - - - dollars in gold, payable to bearer on demand as authorized by law."

These gold certificates are the same size as any other currency (paper money), but their denominations are restricted to $100,000.

They are negotiable only between the 12 Central Banks. This restricted negotiability confines the opportunity to claim gold exclusively to Central Bankers or to those who manipulate large international speculative accounts.

This $2,800,000,000 constituted Mr. Morganthau's secret Stabilization Fund. Before he could do his "stabilizing" he had to exchange more gold certificates for a deposit at the New York Federal Reserve Bank, or for Federal Reserve Notes. Such transactions have given the Federal Reserve banks additional gold certificates so that only slightly over 400 millions remain free gold, that is, gold against which gold certificates are not outstanding in the hands of private individuals or corporations.

Yet, Dr. Willis states that "private persons cannot possess gold." He does not realize that under the present arrangement gold certificates are even more desirable. It is much less expensive for the money racketeers to have the United States government maintain vaults for housing and guarding the gold. It is obtainable upon presentation of their receipts and they have full assurance of being able to get any quantity of gold upon demand. The government is merely performing a free service for the Federal Reserve Banks, just as the local banks used to give a free service to good customers. They would permit them to leave collateral (stocks and bonds) in safekeeping in their vaults. This practice enabled good customers to avoid the expense of renting a suitable safety deposit box.

Banks Demand Gold Certificates

Late in 1935 the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank raised the question of the soundness of the system which left it with mere bookkeeping entries as the only evidence of ownership of the gold which was stored in its own vaults prior to January 30, 1934.

On March 16th it was announced that the Chicago Federal Reserve Bank had withdrawn $800,000,000 of gold certificates from the Treasury in Washington. Last January, the New York Federal Reserve Bank drew down $2,000,000,000 in gold certificates. The banks would not continue to accept mere bookkeeping entries as evidence of title to the gold. However, these same banks daily force the public to take mere bookkeeping entries for which the public must pledge real wealth.

Banker inconsistency amounts to tails we win, heads we win.

The Why of Gold Imports

The foreign trade which Dr. Willis mentions is a phantom. We are importing raw materials and foodstuffs in competition with domestic producers. The gold that has come into this country since January 30, 1934, represents the manipulated balances of international speculators. It is not payment made for goods sold by the American people. It is the balances being brought back by internationalists who can now collect their profits;—the difference between $20.67 and $35 per ounce of gold. These balances were sent to Europe prior to the suspension of gold payments in March, 1933.

The learned Dr. Willis, who undoubtedly gets a handsome salary for his "experting" at Columbia University, apparently does not know that our currency was stabilized at $35 per ounce of gold on January 30, 1934. President Roosevelt may exercise his power to raise the price of gold to a maximum of $41.34 per ounce. Since January 30, 1934, there has not been the slightest indication that the price of gold would be upped, for if the president intended to take that necessary step to bring our currency in line with that of other raw material exporting countries, he would have done so long since. Even after the supreme court declared the AAA unconstitutional, he refused to make any necessary monetary adjustment.

Recommends Horse Laugh

A "hearty horse laugh" was suggested by Dr. Willis to those who advocate a managed currency. He asserted that those who advocate replacing a *gold*-based money with a managed currency system often maintain that it would afford a stability as nearly as possible to that provided by the gold standard.

We ask, where has the professor been in the last 20 years of "stability"? Commodity prices have risen to 250 per cent and crashed down to 70 per cent of pre-war levels. Real estate and stock prices have gyrated wickedly. Yet, the professor has the temerity to say the managed currency advocates maintain that it would afford a stability as nearly as possible to that provided by the Gold Standard.

The professor uses the term "managed currency" very loosely. All currency is managed and always has been. What the American people are suffering from is mismanagement. The National Union for Social Justice is asking that the management be placed in the hands of those to whom it belongs under the Constitution of the United States. Once placed there, the responsibility for any mismanagement could be immediately charged to those then known to be responsible.

The National Union for Social Justice is demanding that the management be resumed by the body designated by the Constitution, viz., our Congress; to whom the responsibility for any mismanagement should be immediately charged, because it is culpable for the acts [National Bank and Federal Reserve Bank acts] which are not and can not be regarded as laws, but as violations of laws.

The mismanagers of our currency were responsible for inflation during the war period and again in the late 1920's; then for deflation in the agricultural sections from 1920 down to date, and in the industrial sections from 1929 down to date.

Other University Views

Dr. Willis' statements remind us of a lecture given by Professor Jacob Viner at Mandel Hall at the University of Chicago several years ago. Professor Viner has been widely publicized as a banking expert, and early in the New Deal was an advisor to Secretary Morganthau.

At the University of Chicago lec-

(Continued on page 15)

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

MONEY CHANGERS

THE CONSTITUTION AND MONEY . . . .

RENOWNED statesmen and scholars have searched the entire world records of history for the greatest achievement in the science of government. Their unqualified conclusions are that the instrument upon which the government of the United States was originally based, embodies that uncontested achievement.

Great minds in all parts of the world have analyzed the Constitution of the United States during the 149 years since it was signed on September 17, 1787. All have reached the unqualified conclusion that it represents such vision, adherence to scientific principles, integrity and statesmanship as to cause them to state that the authors of that document were truly inspired.

William E. Gladstone, who served as England's prime minister for many years, lauded the instrument 89 years after its adoption. While now, in certain quarters and for certain secret purposes, it suddenly has been attacked as antiquated. Here are the words of Gladstone:

"The American Constitution is the most wonderful work ever struck off at one time by the hand and purpose of man."

Able Men at Convention

In our Constitutional convention were assembled the greatest body of men from the standpoint of physical vigor, mental acumen and moral courage that ever met for human achievement. When the great William Pitt read our Constitution he exclaimed:

"It will be the wonder and admiration of all future generations and the model of all future constitutions."

Following the adoption of the Constitution and the founding of the Republic of the United States of America, there began the first great era of scientific government that the world had known in thousands of years. George Washington wrote to Gov. Trumbull of Connecticut:

"I can almost trace the finger of Divine Providence through those dark and mysterious days which first led the colonists to assemble in convention, thereby laying the foundation for peace and prosperity when we had too much reason to fear that misery and confusion were coming rapidly upon us."

The New Republic

The new form of government provided by the Constitution of the United States was the first *genuine* republic the world had known. A republic is a form of government under a constitution which provides for the election of—

1. An Executive.
2. A legislative body who, working together in a representative capacity, have all the power of appointment, all power of legislation, all power to raise revenues and appropriate expenditures, and are required to create:
3. A judiciary to pass upon the justice and legality of their governmental acts and to recognize
4. Certain fundamental rights inherent in each rational human being.

If we take away fundamental human rights from individuals, we are destroying the very supports upon which the Constitution was built. Unfortunately, we have done little fundamental thinking about the principles of government, and we do not comprehend what is involved in destroying a government of laws based upon reason and recognition of the individual.

John A. Wieland, a superintendent of public instruction, has said:

"A deep respect for the Constitution of the United States requires that every person in the United States should read it, understand it, and then live in the spirit of this great instrument of government."

Superintendent Wieland must realize that the uninitiated—and all of us are uninitiated—cannot understand the Constitution merely by reading it, and not understanding it we can certainly not live up to the spirit of it.

Constitution Unheeded

We have allowed our Constitution to lie unheeded. Meanwhile, its enemies have sought to destroy it; like termites devouring an abandoned log.

Unfortunately, the meaning of the various parts of our Constitution, particularly in some of the most important parts, has never been explained. Our constitutional government guaranteed life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness to each individual. It is the violation of our Constitution which is responsible for this happiness being still unattained.

There can be no universal happiness while many millions are denied an opportunity to earn a livelihood. There can be no liberty without economic freedom, the denial of which is purely artificial and can be readily remedied. It is not remedied because the people *do not understand* the first and most flagrant violation of the Constitution of the United States. Those who do understand speculate in the ignorance of the rest.

Silent on Violation

Our Republican politicians cry out "Get back to the Constitution". Our radio orators beseech us "To protect the Constitution". Newspaper publishers editorially plead for "Freedom of speech and freedom of the press must be maintained at all hazards". Our superintendents of schools say "Read the Constitution, learn it, and live up to its principles".

Despite these enunciations, full, open and frank discussions of the first and most flagrant violation of the Constitution of the United States is prohibited. There exists a powerful conspiracy of silence and deliberate teaching of falsehood upon this all-important provision:

"Congress shall have the power to coin money and regulate the value thereof."—Article 1, Section 8, Part 5, Constitution of the United States.

Our present monetary system continues to exist solely by reason of the general public being prevented from learning its true nature by a powerful conspiracy of misrepresentation, or silence.

Constitution Only Hope

Is it not our only hope to restore and live up to the Constitution of the United States, in all seriousness, in all earnestness? As conceived, it was far ahead of its time, and the feeble efforts of the sincere few to make it a living reality have been neutralized by political intrigue and financial corruption.

It is not the Constitution that needs to be changed, but our leaders and ourselves. Its wordy worship should cease, and honor and fidelity to it by our actions should begin. The Constitution does not need us; it is we who need it. The only means of protecting ourselves is to arise in righteous wrath and demand that all unconstitutional laws be abolished. Peace and prosperity for all would follow and endure.

Will we Americans have the intelligence and courage; or will we allow our nation to go into the abyss of tyranny and chaos, and come back to the true principles of our Constitution only after years of suffering and loss of millions of lives?

The choice is ours: *"Live for the Constitution and you'll never have to die for it."*

Start living for the Constitution by demanding that the highest prerogative of our government—the "power to coin money and regulate the value thereof" be restored to the Congress of the United States.

The acid test of the sincerity of any political servant, aspirant or patriotic organization is the willingness and determination to attack our unconstitutional money system openly, completely and effectively.

It is the responsibility of each real American to apply the test. Is the candidate or patriotic organization willing to correct the first violation of the Constitution!

Economic Illiteracy - - - A Serious Menace

Continued from Page 14

ture we recall that he was presented as "a representative of a New York finance firm." He opened his lecture by announcing that he did not think it would be necessary for the United States to "go off" the gold standard; but before the lecture was three-fourths over, he told his audience that we were already "off the gold standard," in fact, that we had been off since the passage of the Federal Reserve Act in 1913.

Summing up, he stated that the depression could not be lifted except by an act of God; for example, by the finding of another gold mine, or an abundant harvest, or another war. An erudite gentleman in the audience asked Professor Viner if the audience was to understand that he classed wars as acts of God.

He replied: "Well, ah, ah, that is, ah; statistically speaking." The interrogator who had patiently asked the question remarked: "How are we to know whether you are speaking statistically or not?"

At the conclusion of the lecture, an economic illiterate who apparently had not grasped the inconsistencies of the professor's speech, said: "Well, that was an instructive lecture, was it not?" "Yes," replied the erudite interrogator, "we even learned that wars are acts of God." "Oh, he did say that, didn't he? I hadn't thought of that." "No," replied the interrogator, "that is our trouble, we do not think."

When the American people begin to think, such speeches as Dr. Willis' and Professor Viner's will be properly classed as mere muddle-headed confusion. The "hearty horse laugh" would better fit such professors and their kind.

The economic illiteracy appears to be more virulent among those who are paid to be experts than among commonsense people. Thinkers pay little attention to professors because their pronouncements do not make sense.

We Recommend

"Money, Questions and Answers"

for it was written for the "little banker," the little industrialist, merchant, wage earner and farmer. This book of about 1000 questions and simple direct answers, places the whole subject within easy mastery of every intelligent person.

Write for your copy direct to
Rev. Charles E. Coughlin,
Royal Oak, Mich.

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Father Coughlin's WEEKLY LETTER

To the District Officers

I TAKE this opportunity to congratulate the ladies and gentlemen whom the congressional district assemblies elected to office in the various districts in which the National Union is operating.

While your office is one of honor and dignity, it is more one of responsibility and self-sacrifice.

As far as honor and dignity are concerned, these are of small importance because, as you will soon realize, honor will soon be converted to dishonor; dignity will soon become the target for abuse.

In many instances candidates were elected to office simply because they possessed sterling moral qualities. While these qualities are essential to sound leadership, they are not sufficient. Intellectual qualities are also essential. You must know the answer to the problems of social justice. You are not excused if you are ignorant of the rules for conducting properly the meetings at which you preside. You must expect no leniency from critical tongues if, through misinformation or lack of information, you arrive at judgments which are not based solidly on facts.

Insofar as you have accepted the office to which you have been elected you owe it as a duty to the National Union, to its members, to the cause of social justice and to me, personally, to equip yourselves with all these intellectual virtues. If you feel that you are not capable of acquiring the knowledge, the tact, the diplomacy and the other mental qualities necessary to establish your leadership, it is better for you to resign immediately than to occupy an office for which you are unsuited.

By this time, most likely, you will have been approached by clever politicians or their agents. Please remember the old story of the gift-bearing Greeks. Men, high in power both in the Democratic and Republican ranks, will begin to recognize you. Luncheon clubs, newspaper reporters, prominent men about town will begin to patronize you. In fact your family may be invited to climb the social ladder. It is quite probable that a "fine horse," richly caparisoned, will be presented to you just as the Greeks of old bestowed the gift of a wooden horse upon the thoughtless Trojans. The unintelligent Trojans, while obligating themselves to the Greek-givers, did not know that the stomach of the wooden horse was filled with murderous soldiers. Beware of gift-giving Greeks!

From the experience gained over a period of more than ten years of so-called lime-light and popularity, I have learned to distrust the man who slaps you on the back, to hold aloof from the group who clap their hands in loud acclaim, and to maintain myself more or less in solitude from those who would crown me king. They are the very ones who, tomorrow, would crown me with thorns.

Thus, in all sincerity hold fast to your 6⅞ hat. It will be disastrous for you and for the National Union if you ever change its size to a number 7. In fact it will be the sign that an intellectual explosion is about to occur with the result that your brains will be scattered far and wide.

Heretofore, probably, you were hero worshippers of some politician. By accepting office in the National Union you are divorcing yourselves from all politicians. You are like a young man who, having pledged his love to the girl of his heart, has now married her. Henceforth the flirtations, which formerly were permissible and innocent in themselves, are to be regarded as forbidden fruit and hostile to domestic peace. You are neither Democrat nor Republican, Progressive or what not. You are a strange species of non-committal citizens who must act independent of all politicians for the common welfare of the members of this organization, who have been whipped from pillar to post by the platforms of all politicians.

Ladies and gentlemen, I trust that you do not think that I am fanatical when I warn you that democracy is on trial. I have given utterance to this expression several times during the past five months. I emphasize it more than ever today when I tell you that, if democracy is on trial, you especially are the men and women who will cause democracy to live in America or to perish in America.

I could reproduce for you thousands of letters from men and women living in every state of our Union who tell me that they are not only disgusted with both the Democrats and the Republicans, but who are leaning on the hopes offered by the National Union to such an extent that, should the National Union fail, they will turn either to the Socialists or to the Communists in desperation.

These letters frighten me. They have been the prime cause of my working sixteen hours a day for months and months as I used every moral, intellectual and volitional energy trying to complete a job which I started. Certainly this job is too big for one man or for any one hundred men. It is physically and mentally impossible to accomplish it even though 60 per cent of you who have been elected to office will feel the same way about it as I do. It demands 100 per cent efficiency on your part. It demands the sacrifice of hours spent away from your family. It demands the sacrifice of studious evenings spent with sincere friends of social justice. It demands putting off hundreds of habits which formerly occupied your time. It demands patience in dealing with your less fortunate and less informed fellow citizens.

The district secretaries and the district treasurers have no easy task to fulfill. They will be accused of partiality. They will be suspected of careless handling of funds. Therefore, their reports must be as faithful and as accurate as possible. Their contacts with the local units must be systematic. Their files must be complete and regular.

So that the congressional district treasurer will be like Caesar's wife—above suspicion—it is expedient that he or she will invite scrutiny of the district books at least every four months. It will also be expedient that the district treasurer will be bonded.

Under the jurisdiction of the district president and his fellow officers will fall the local unit presidents, vice-presidents, treasurers and secretaries. Rules and regulations instituted to establish uniformity of action and of procedure must be established. At present this step will be postponed. However, I am open for suggestions from all district officers. These suggestions which you will make in confidence to me will be weighed and condensed. Eventually, before the end of July, temporary by-laws will be passed specifying the powers of the congressional district officers over all local units within their jurisdiction. In August, when the national convention will formally meet, these by-laws either will be made permanent, or changed, at the will of the national convention.

Once more I congratulate you on offering your services for the welfare of social justice—services which will entail of you much sacrifice.

Cordially yours,

Charles E. Coughlin

PRODUCED BY UNZ.ORG
ELECTRONIC REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED